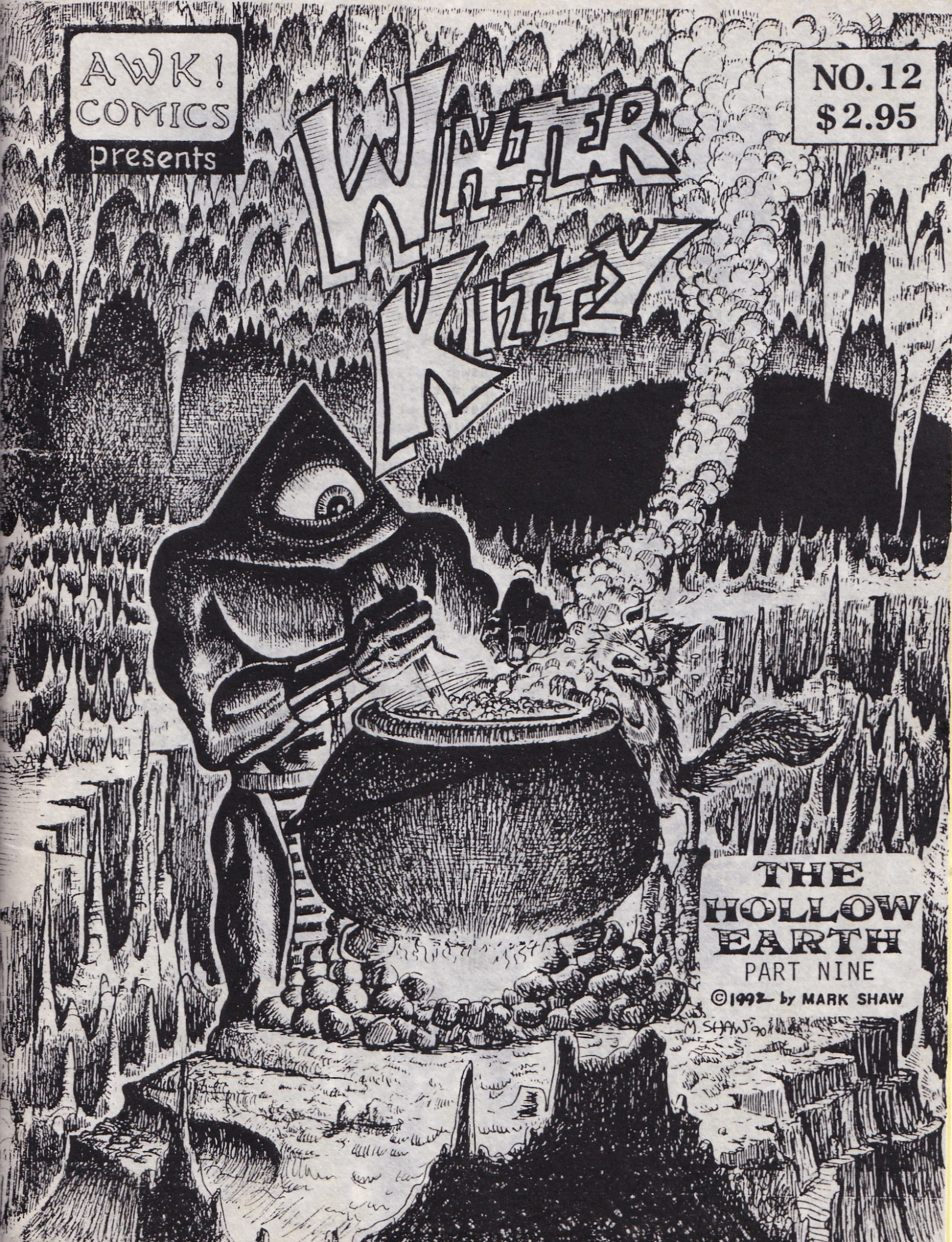

AWK! COMICS
presents
WHALER KILLER
NO. 12
$2.95
THE HOLLOW EARTH
PART NINE
©1992 by MARK SHAW
M. SHAW '90

GWK!!

Choke! Gasp! Cough!! OOps! Sorry about that-- you caught me in the middle of coughing up a hairball! The fur's been flyin' since the publication of our last issue just a few weeks ago. Now I'm trying to finish off this issue so we can go to press in time to sell copies at the local Austin Collectors Exposition July 11th, which is just days away. Why am I doing this? BECAUSE I'M CRAZY, YOU FOOLS!! MAD! PSYCHOTIC!! INSANE!!! What other answer makes any sense? Seriously, I'm rushing like mad to get this issue out before the show, because our finances being what they are, I have to print these suckers up before our money runs out, and any proceeds we may make at the show will have to go into survival money (Survival being money to pay the humongous Austin summer utility bills we incur by running our air conditioner in a futile attempt to keep the temp below 80 degrees). But enough of this light-hearted shilly-shallying! This issue is different in several ways that you should be aware of...

First, this issue's story is a hefty 41 pages, which doesn't include the backup features, such as the letter column, and,

Second, the **other** backup features: an article on the "real" Atlantis by my wife, Laura, and a one page gag by yours truly.

Laura also had something else to contribute to this issue, aside from her usual thankless task of editing and correcting my spelling and art, and that is that she inked one full page of the story -- I'll let you readers try and spot which one it is-- but it's a doozy! She did a great job, and I just wish she could quit her **real** job and come to work for me!

Third, this is part **nine** of The Hollow Earth-- only three more chapters to go, so you can expect some accelerated action, and a narrowing of the story's focus, until it all wraps up in part **twelve** (in Walter Kitty #15). If I can actually finish it off, it'll definitely be the **longest** single funny animal comic story ever attempted!

Fourth, this issue contains the origin of **Dennis**-- as well as a surprise or two, for those who like to second-guess the plotline.

So sit back, relax and enjoy this issue of Walter Kitty.

The real world is **way** too depressing!

Your slightly unhinged chum,

"Uncle"
Mark

WALTER KITTY in
THE
HOLLOW
EARTH

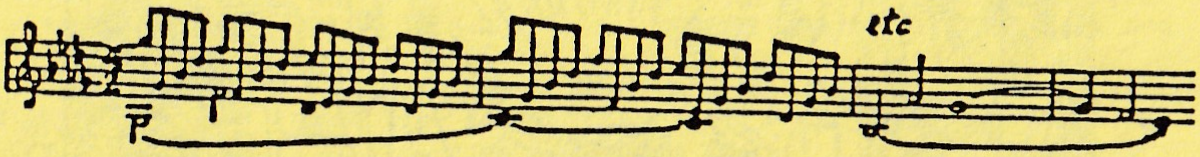
WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

CATHERINE FOXX, one of the only persons on the earth who is able to summon the immense power of **THE SOURCE**, is under the control of the evil **ZANOMANON**--who has forced her to summon the **evil side** of the **SOURCE** to do his bidding. A leader of the **Aghartan people** who live at the center of the earth, **MARIANA**, Catherine's **mother**, is the only **other** person on earth who can summon the **SOURCE**-- thus, **ZANOMANON** sends the **evil side** of the Source to attack she and **DR ROBERT FOXX** in **AGHARTA**, at the earth's core.

Meanwhile, **WALTER** and his newfound friend **DENNIS** race to find the antidote to **WALTER'S** having been turned into a **real kitty** by the **transmutation powers** of **ZANOMANON!**

And now, it is a storm-tossed, lightning-lit night as the curtain rises... Our setting is **Arkville**, which is recovering from the wave of disasters inflicted upon the world by **Zanomanon's** control of the **Source.**

So now, as the lights dim and the music swells to a dramatic crescendo, our story continues...



PART NINE:

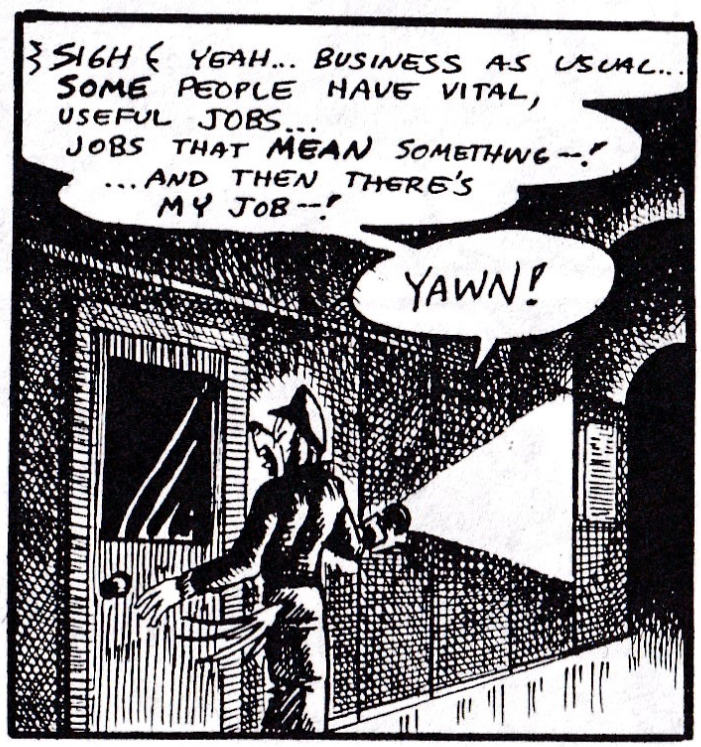
" MISTAKES WERE MADE..."

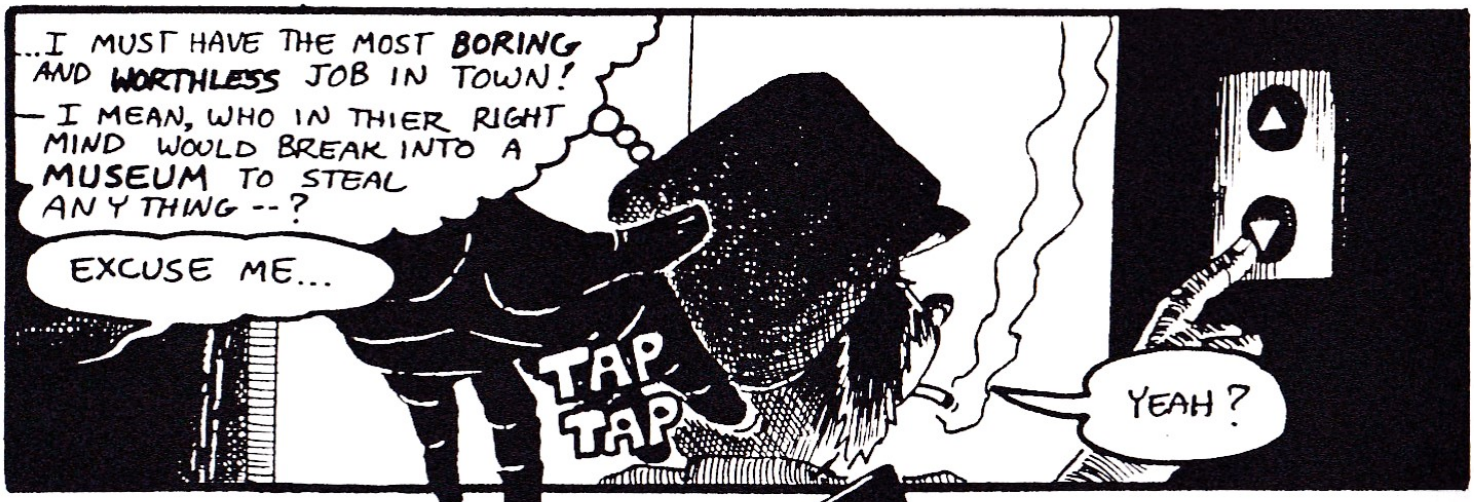
WALTER KITTY, Vol 1, No. 12, July 1992, published by AWK PROJECTS, 2701 Penny Lane, #219, Austin, Texas 78758. Published whenever we can. Copyright © 1992 by Mark Shaw. All rights reserved. Price: $2.95 a copy. Walter Kitty, the characters in this comic book, and their distinctive likenesses, are the property of Mark Shaw, A.K.A. "Uncle" Mark. No similarity between any of the characters, names, persons, or institutions with those of any living or dead persons or institutions is intended. Any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Can it really be that you have nothing better to do than read the indicia at the bottom of the page? Get a life, you ...dried up walnut of a person!

ARKVILLE'S MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY--

AROUND 11:00 PM...

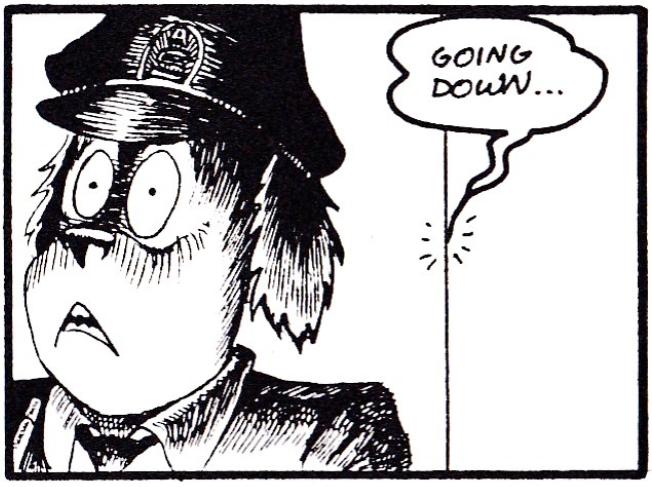
NAH! I THINK THESE **DISASTERS** ARE JUST THE EARTH LETTIN' OFF **STEAM** -- YOU KNOW... LIKE A **GEYSER** OR SOMETHIN'... THINGS'LL GET BACK TO NORMAL BEFORE LONG...

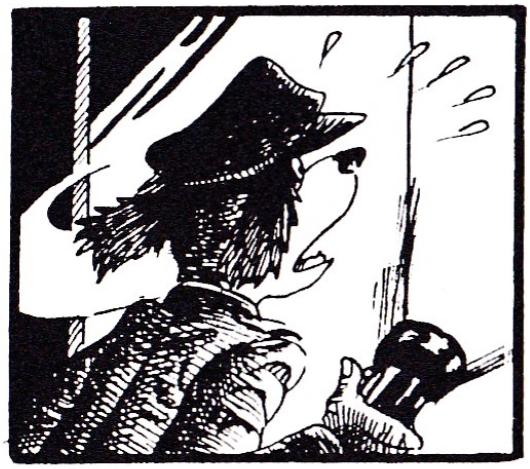



...I MUST HAVE THE MOST BORING AND WORTHLESS JOB IN TOWN!
— I MEAN, WHO IN THIER RIGHT MIND WOULD BREAK INTO A MUSEUM TO STEAL ANYTHING --?
EXCUSE ME...
TAP TAP
YEAH?

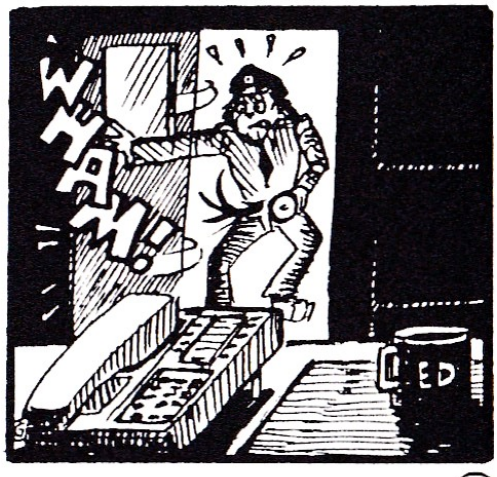
WE NEED TO TAKE THE ELEVATOR DOWN TO THE NEXT FLOOR...
WOULD YOU MIND IF WE WENT AHEAD OF YOU...?
YEAH — WE'RE IN A HURRY!
OH. SURE. GO RIGHT AHEAD...

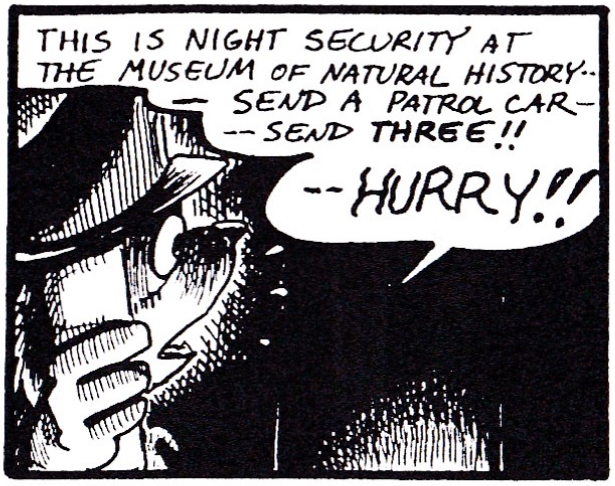
THANK YOU...
YOU'RE WELCOME... DON'T MENTION IT...
YAWN!


GOING DOWN...



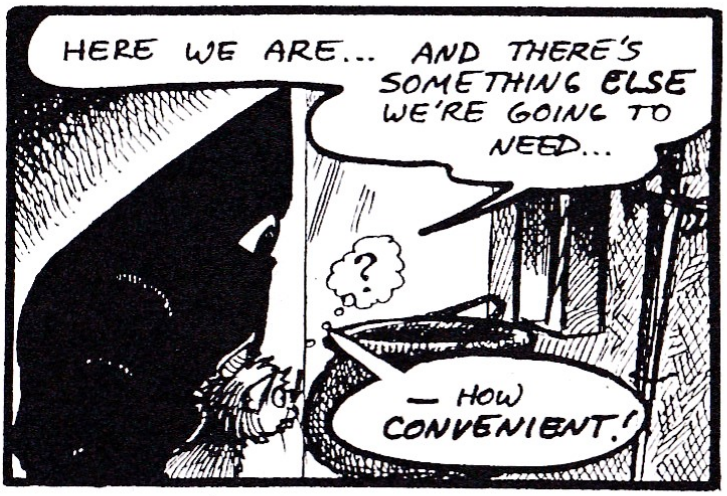
HM!

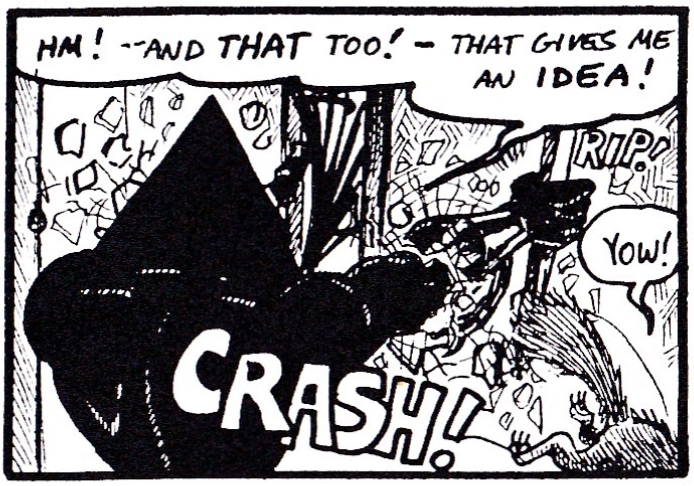

WHAM!
ED

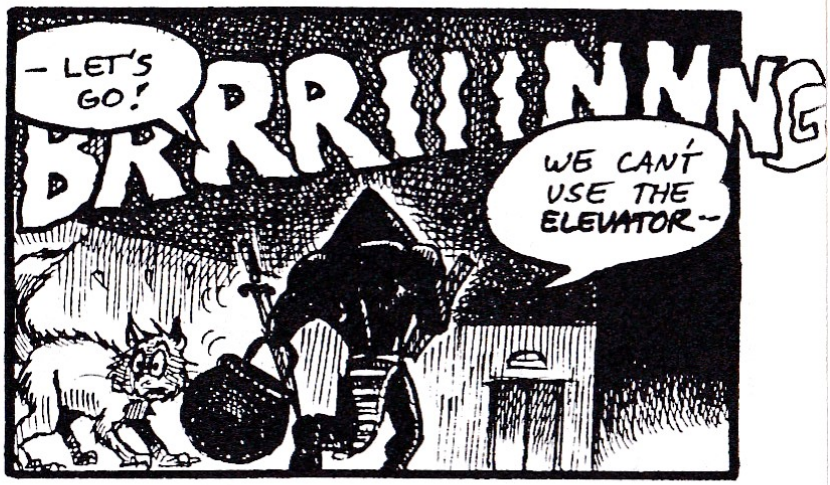

THIS IS NIGHT SECURITY AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY-- — SEND A PATROL CAR— --SEND THREE!!
--HURRY!!

GEE! HE DIDN'T SEEM SURPRISED AT ALL!
--I WOULDN'T THINK YOU WERE AN EVERYDAY SIGHT --
— NO OFFENSE...
...JUST A DELAYED REACTION, WALTER...
WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY...

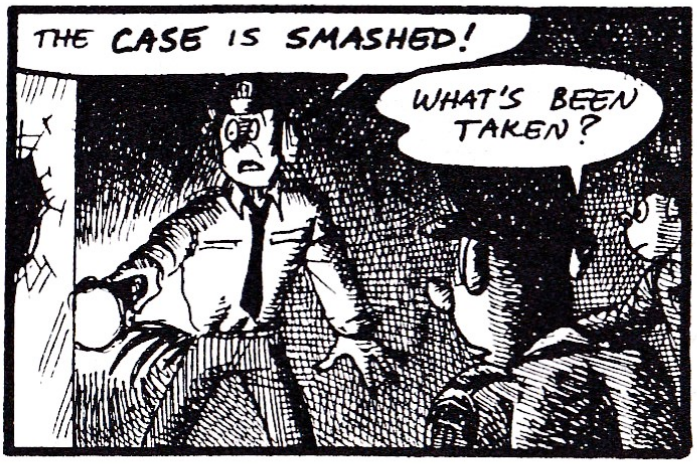
THE TALISMAN IS ON THIS FLOOR...
WELL, LET'S GET IT!


HERE WE ARE... AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE'RE GOING TO NEED...
?
— HOW CONVENIENT!

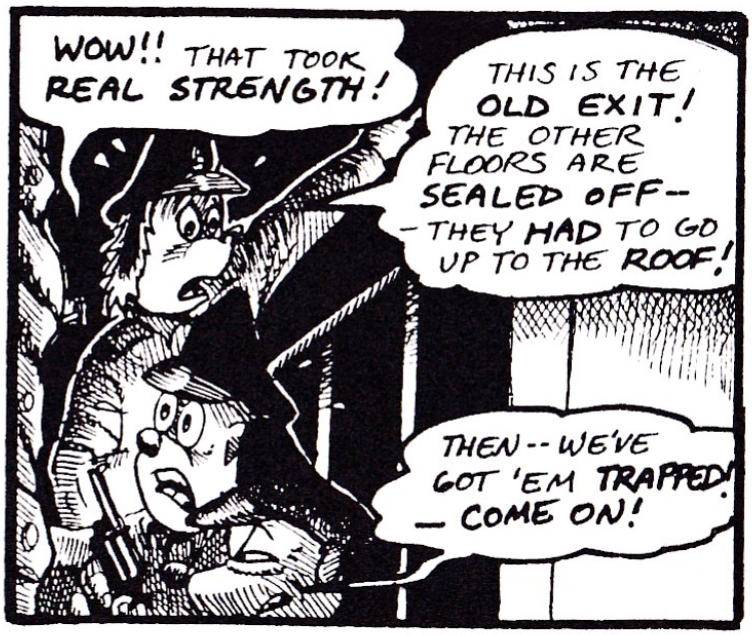

HM! --AND THAT TOO! — THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
RIP!
YOW!
CRASH!


— LET'S GO!
BRRRIIINNNG
WE CAN'T USE THE ELEVATOR--

WHAT'S UP?
IB-GLEEP--AB--
--I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT!
--JUST FOLLOW ME!!


THE CASE IS SMASHED!
WHAT'S BEEN TAKEN?

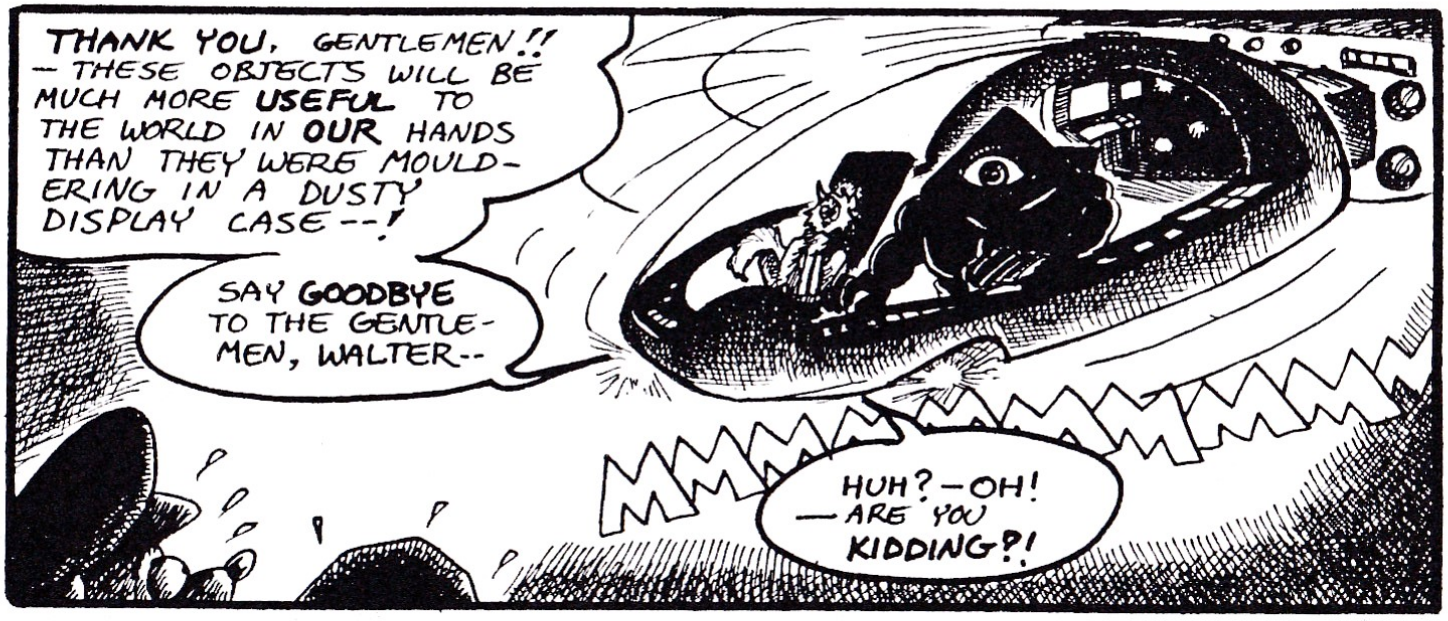
THERE WAS A SWORD IN THERE-- -AND A GREAT BIG CAULDRON-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE--
NO EXIT
LOOK! THE EMERGENCY EXIT'S BEEN FORCED OPEN!

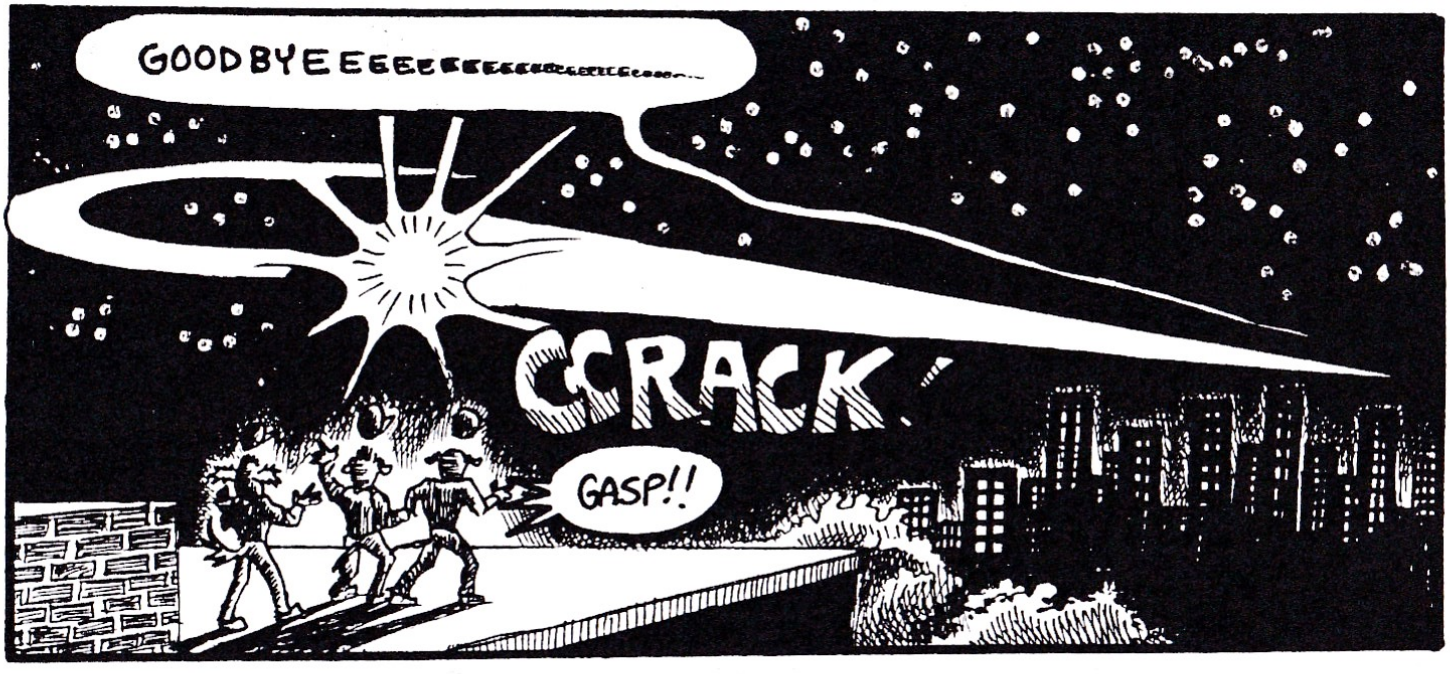

WOW!! THAT TOOK REAL STRENGTH!
THIS IS THE OLD EXIT! THE OTHER FLOORS ARE SEALED OFF-- -THEY HAD TO GO UP TO THE ROOF!
THEN--WE'VE GOT 'EM TRAPPED! -COME ON!

GET READY-- THEY'RE LIKELY TO BE DESPERATE!
LET'S DO IT!

FREEZE, SCUM!!
CLANG!

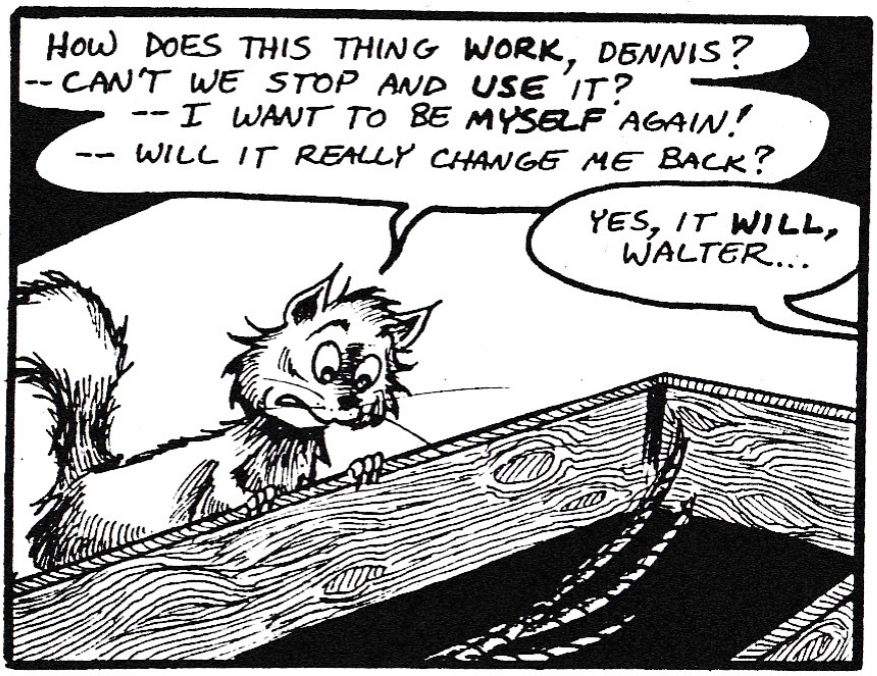
-OH!
..UH...


THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN!! — THESE OBJECTS WILL BE MUCH MORE USEFUL TO THE WORLD IN OUR HANDS THAN THEY WERE MOULDERING IN A DUSTY DISPLAY CASE--!
SAY GOODBYE TO THE GENTLEMEN, WALTER--
HUH? — OH! — ARE YOU KIDDING?!

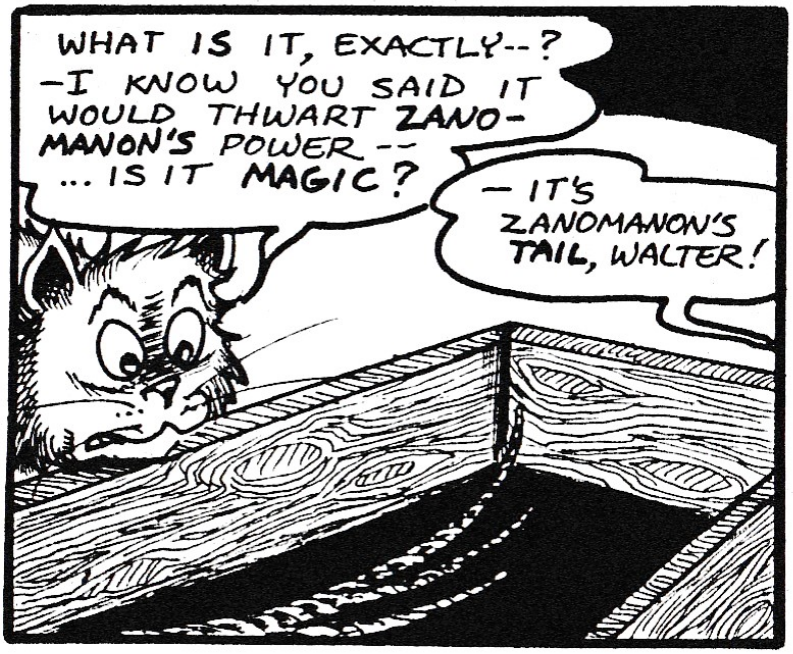

GOODBYEEE

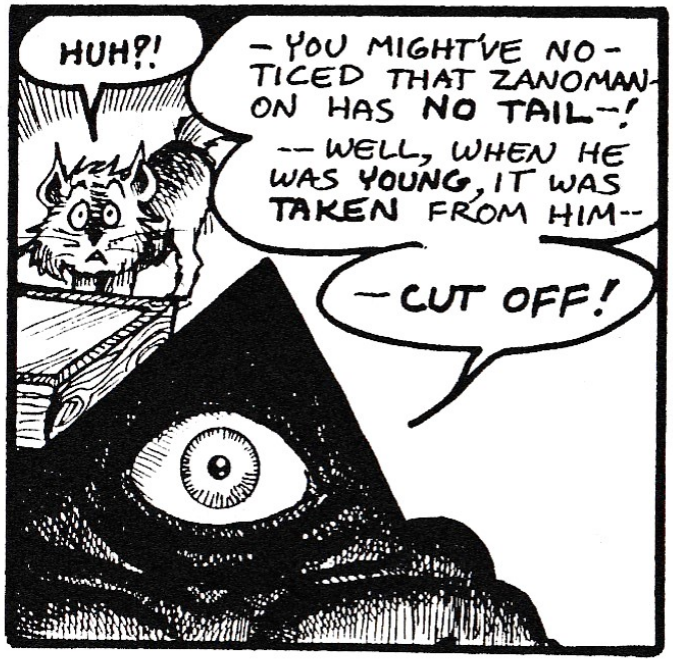
WHAT'S THAT THING IN THE BOX, DENNIS?
-- THAT'S THE TALISMAN OF ZANOMANON, WALTER...

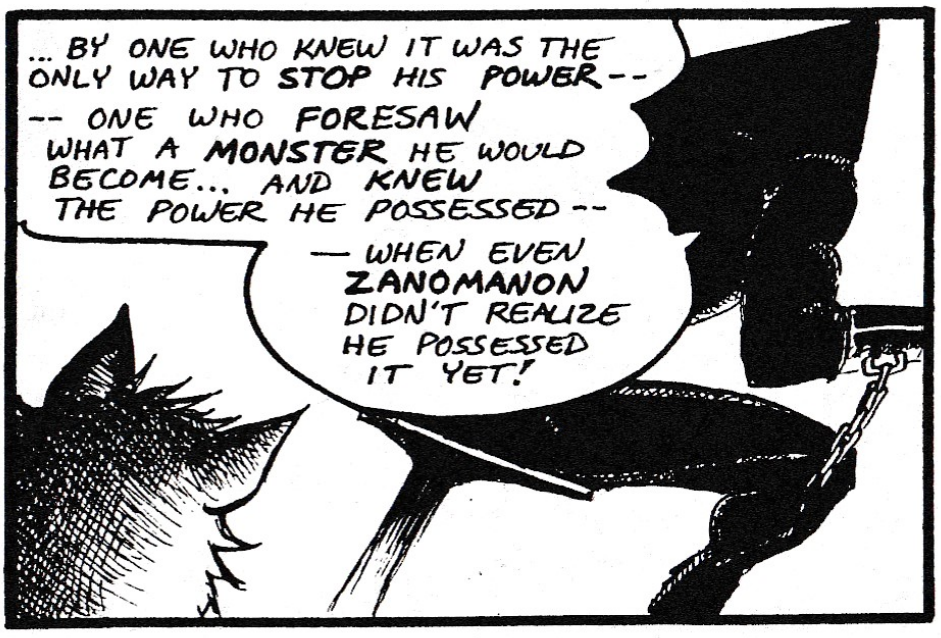
THAT IS?! -- I THOUGHT THE SWORD WAS THE TALISMAN!
NOPE! I TOOK THE SWORD AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT. -- I'VE AN IDEA IT MAY COME IN HANDY--


HOW DOES THIS THING WORK, DENNIS? -- CAN'T WE STOP AND USE IT? -- I WANT TO BE MYSELF AGAIN! -- WILL IT REALLY CHANGE ME BACK?
YES, IT WILL, WALTER...

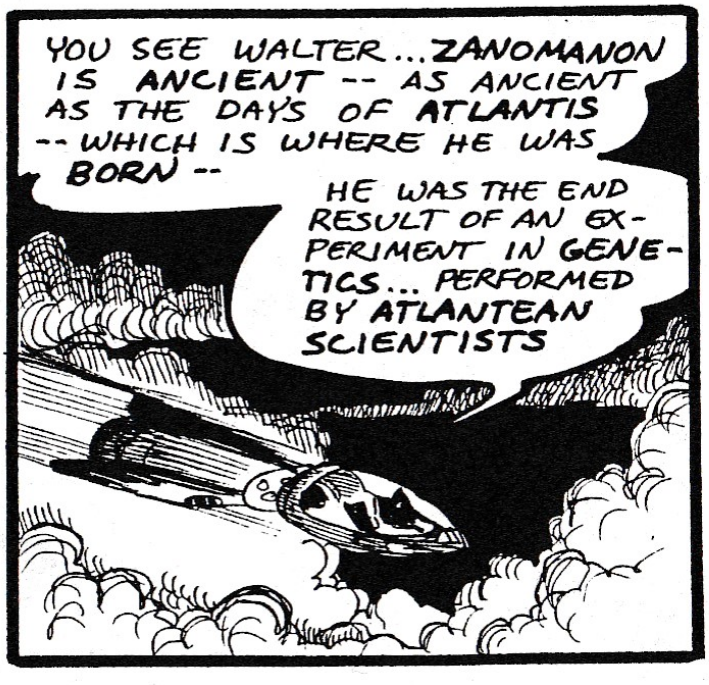
... BUT IT MUST BE COMBINED WITH OTHER ELEMENTS TO BE FOUND INSIDE THE EARTH...
OH...

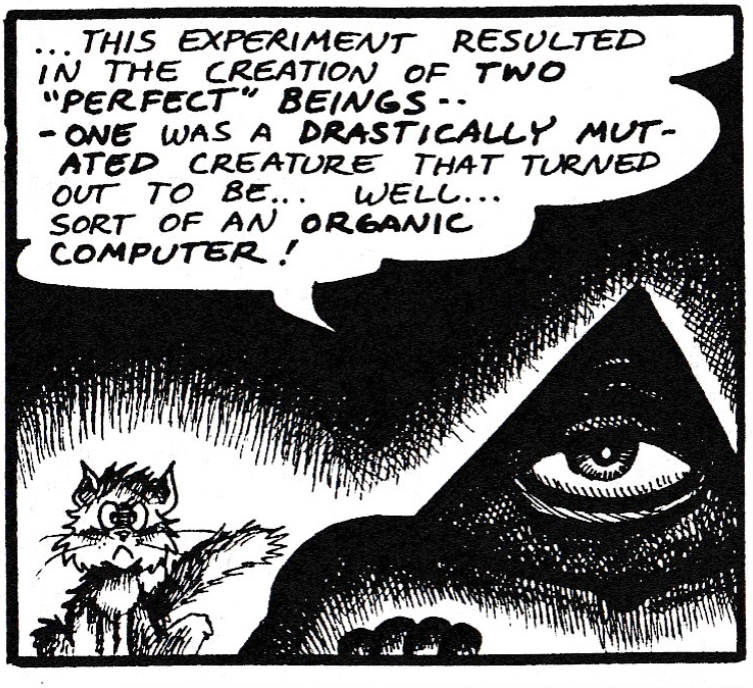

WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY--? -I KNOW YOU SAID IT WOULD THWART ZANOMANON'S POWER -- ... IS IT MAGIC?
-IT'S ZANOMANON'S TAIL, WALTER!


HUH?!
-YOU MIGHT'VE NOTICED THAT ZANOMANON HAS NO TAIL--! -- WELL, WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, IT WAS TAKEN FROM HIM--
-CUT OFF!


... BY ONE WHO KNEW IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HIS POWER--
-- ONE WHO FORESAW WHAT A MONSTER HE WOULD BECOME... AND KNEW THE POWER HE POSSESSED --
— WHEN EVEN ZANOMANON DIDN'T REALIZE HE POSSESSED IT YET!

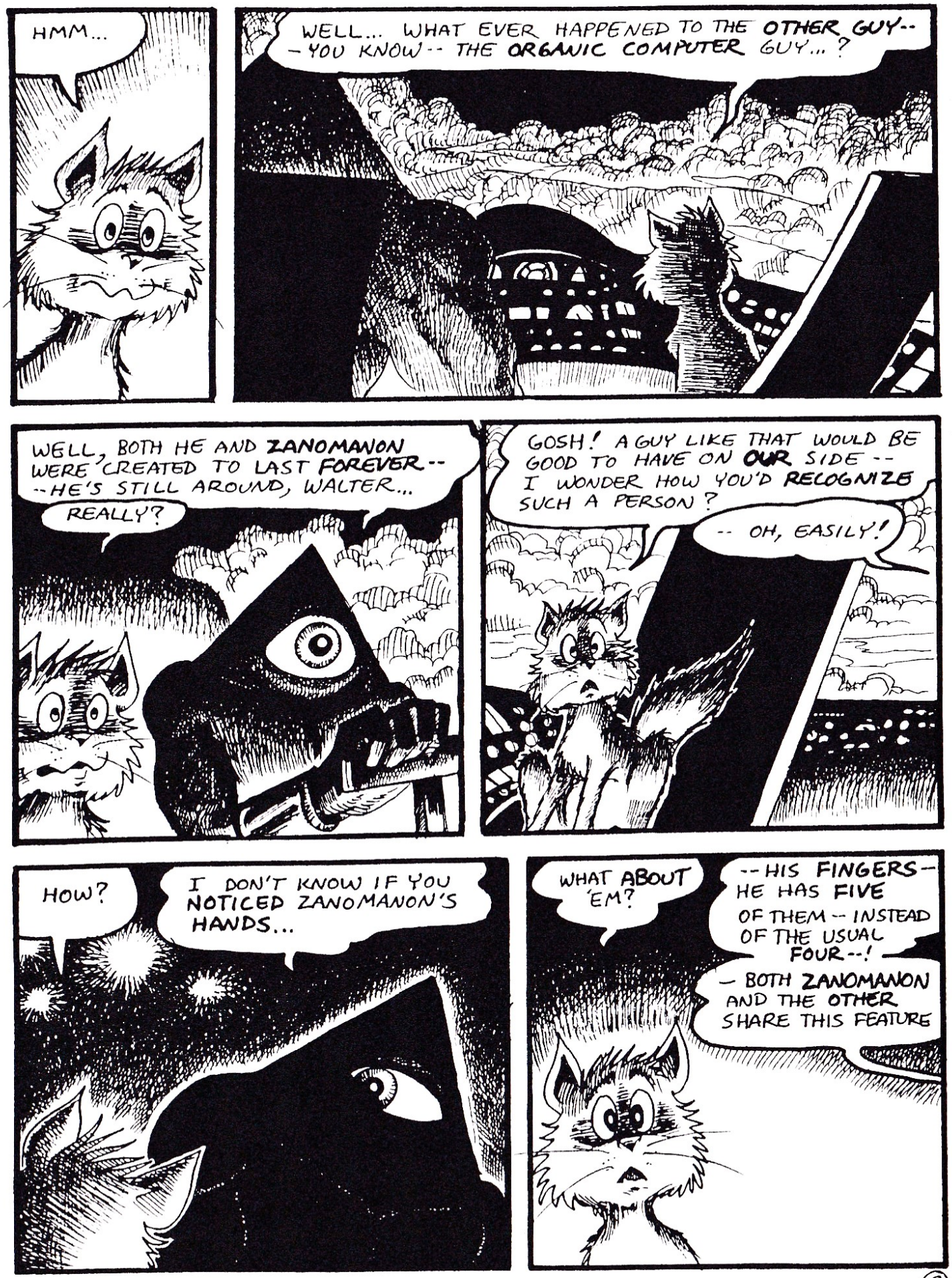
I'M CONFUSED--!
3 SIGH & I DON'T BLAME YOU...

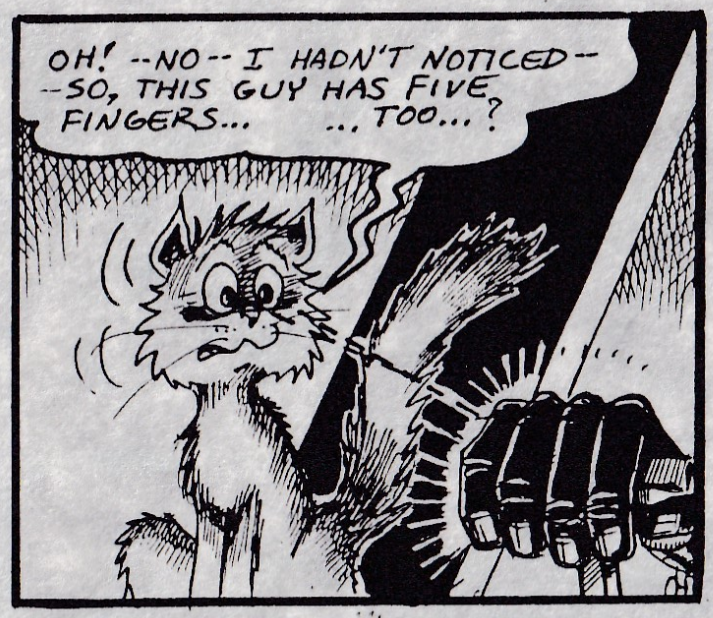

YOU SEE WALTER... ZANOMANON IS ANCIENT -- AS ANCIENT AS THE DAYS OF ATLANTIS -- WHICH IS WHERE HE WAS BORN --
HE WAS THE END RESULT OF AN EXPERIMENT IN GENETICS... PERFORMED BY ATLANTEAN SCIENTISTS

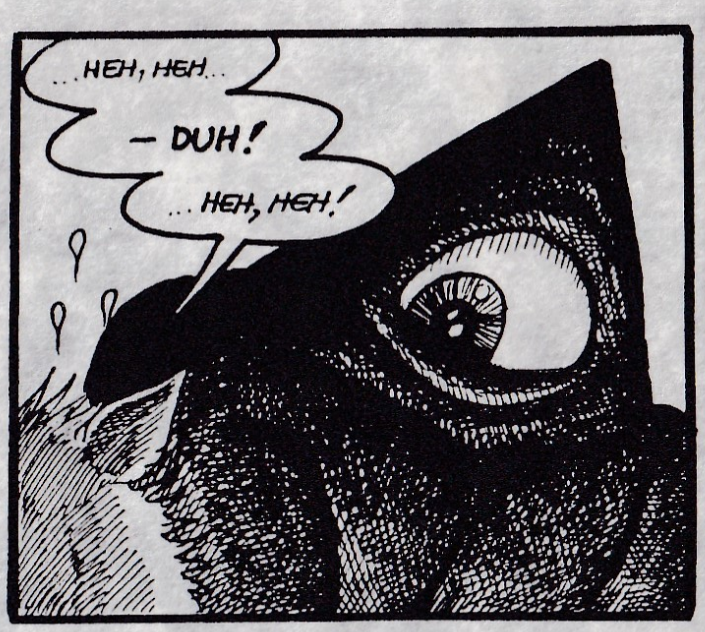

...THIS EXPERIMENT RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF TWO "PERFECT" BEINGS--
-ONE WAS A DRASTICALLY MUTATED CREATURE THAT TURNED OUT TO BE... WELL... SORT OF AN ORGANIC COMPUTER!

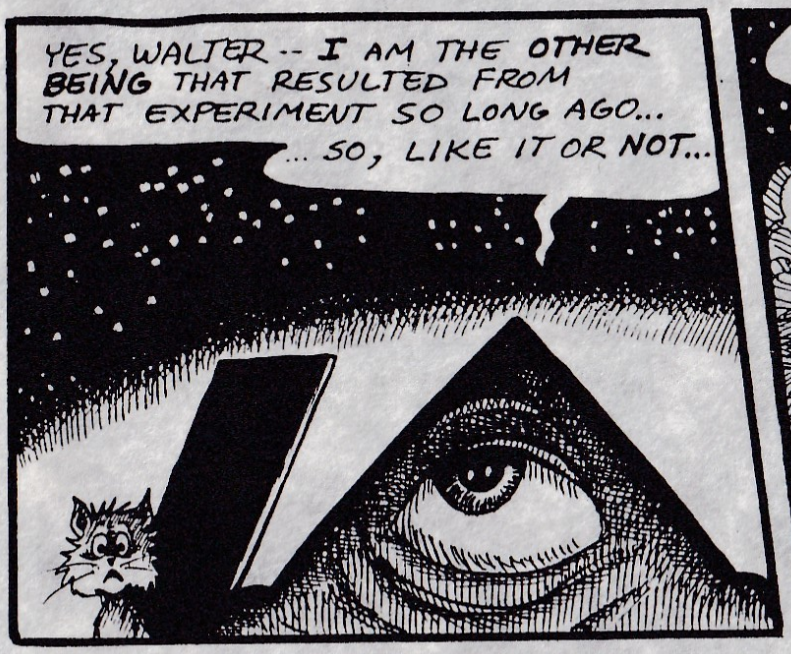
...THE OTHER WAS HOPED TO BE... THE ULTIMATE MAN --
-- A SUPERIOR BEING...

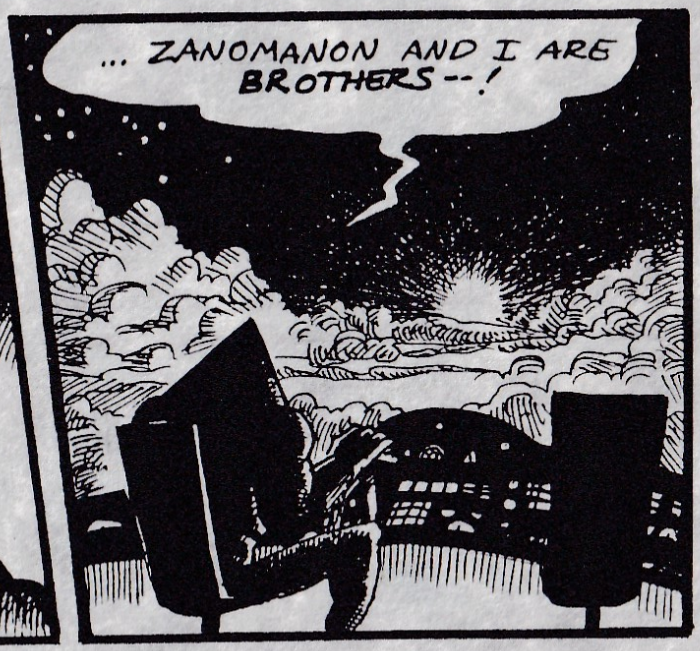
...WHO WOULD BE THE PROTOTYPE FOR A NEW, IMPROVED BREED OF PEOPLE...
-- THAT WAS ZANOMANON!


HMM...
WELL... WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE OTHER GUY-- -YOU KNOW-- THE ORGANIC COMPUTER GUY...?
WELL, BOTH HE AND ZANOMANON WERE CREATED TO LAST FOREVER-- --HE'S STILL AROUND, WALTER...
REALLY?
GOSH! A GUY LIKE THAT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE ON OUR SIDE-- I WONDER HOW YOU'D RECOGNIZE SUCH A PERSON?
-- OH, EASILY!
HOW?
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED ZANOMANON'S HANDS...
WHAT ABOUT 'EM?
--HIS FINGERS-- HE HAS FIVE OF THEM -- INSTEAD OF THE USUAL FOUR--!
- BOTH ZANOMANON AND THE OTHER SHARE THIS FEATURE

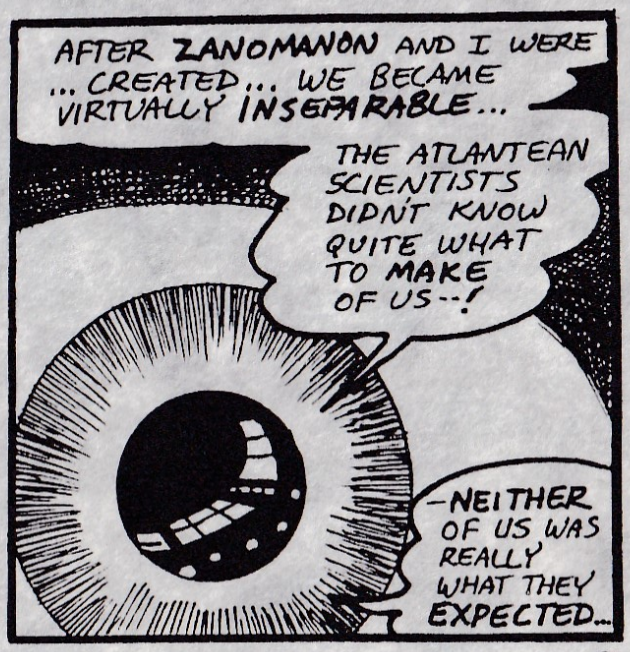

OH! --NO-- I HADN'T NOTICED--
--SO, THIS GUY HAS FIVE FINGERS... ... TOO...?

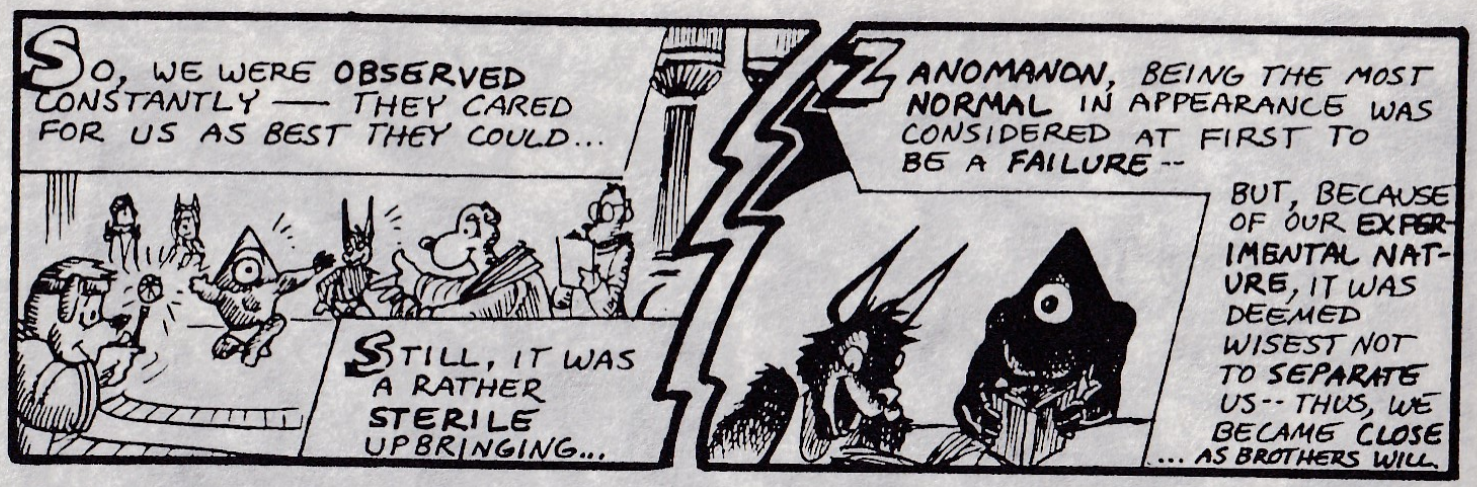

...HEH, HEH...
-DUH!
...HEH, HEH!

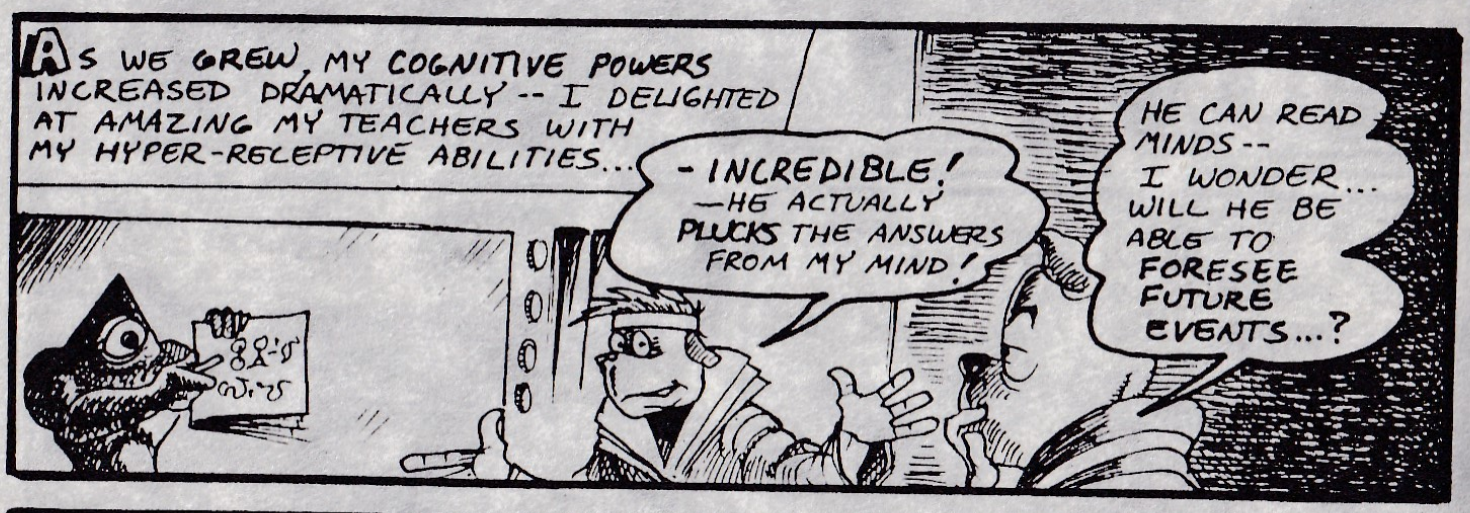

YES, WALTER -- I AM THE OTHER BEING THAT RESULTED FROM THAT EXPERIMENT SO LONG AGO...
... SO, LIKE IT OR NOT...

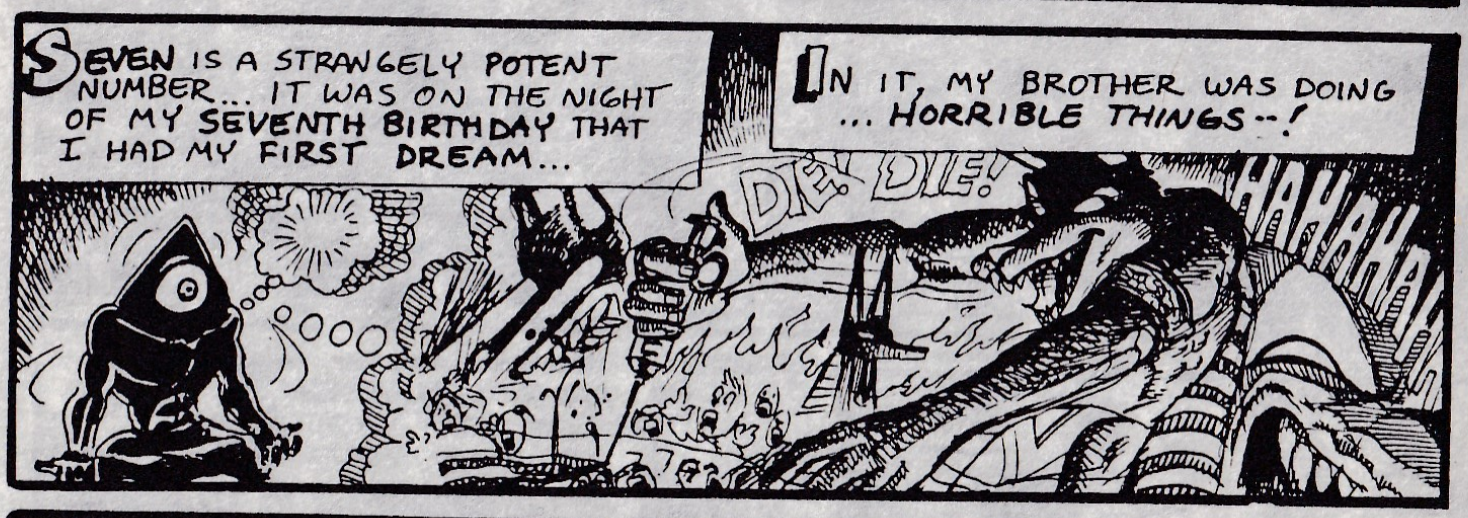

... ZANOMANON AND I ARE BROTHERS --!

--PRETTY MUCH OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM, IF YOU ASK ME!
{SIGH} -- YOU DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, WALTER...
... BACK IN ATLANTIS...

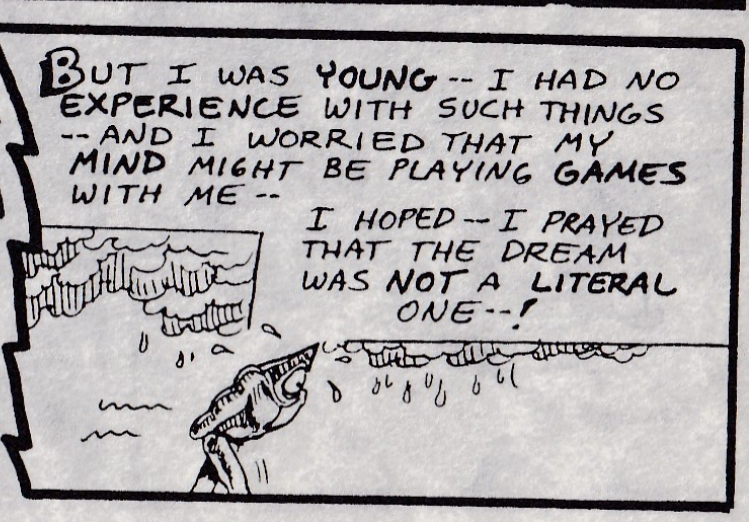

AFTER ZANOMANON AND I WERE ... CREATED... WE BECAME VIRTUALLY INSEPARABLE...
THE ATLANTEAN SCIENTISTS DIDN'T KNOW QUITE WHAT TO MAKE OF US--!
-NEITHER OF US WAS REALLY WHAT THEY EXPECTED...

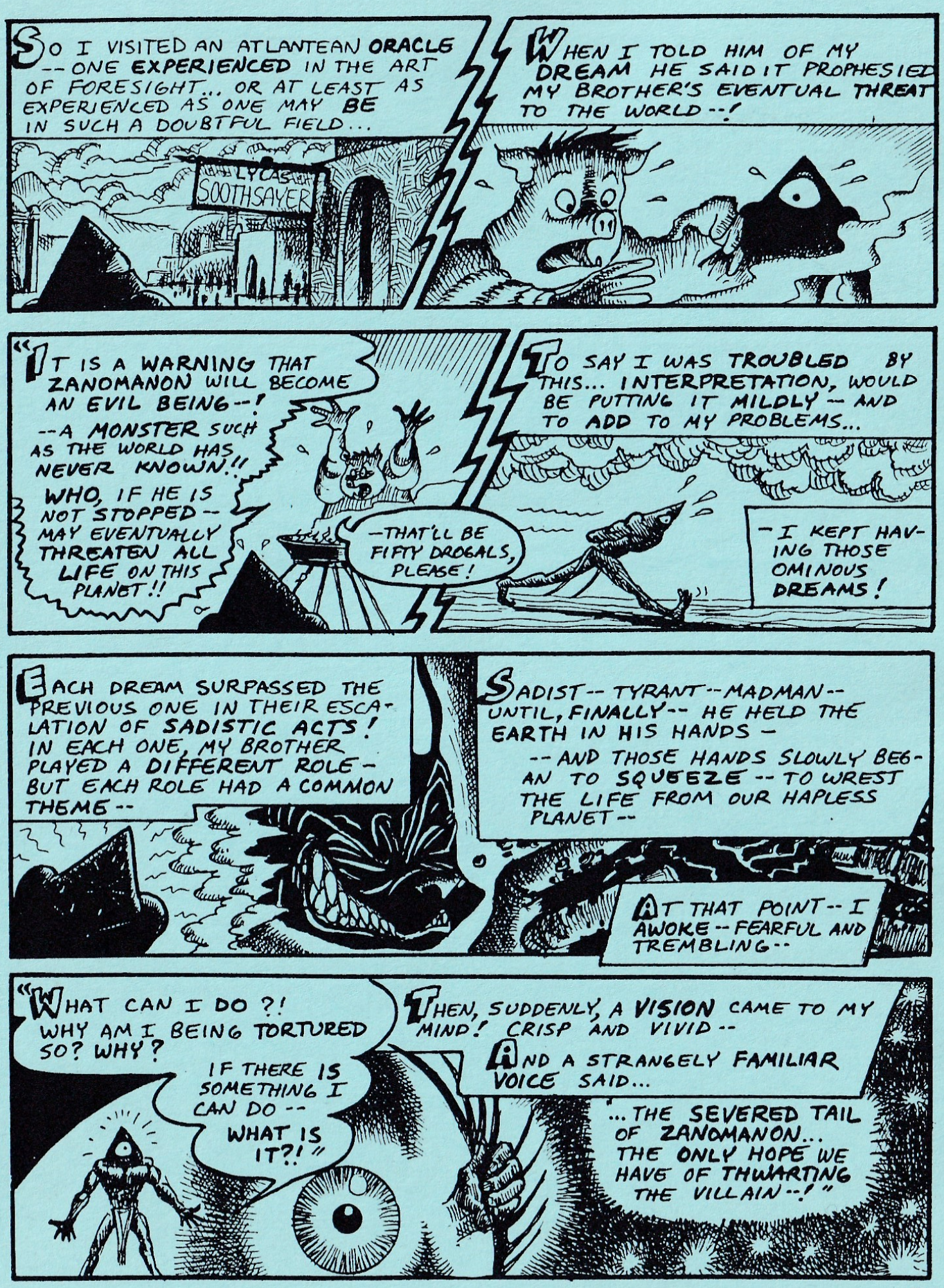

SO, WE WERE OBSERVED CONSTANTLY — THEY CARED FOR US AS BEST THEY COULD...
STILL, IT WAS A RATHER STERILE UPBRINGING...
ZANOMANON, BEING THE MOST NORMAL IN APPEARANCE WAS CONSIDERED AT FIRST TO BE A FAILURE--
BUT, BECAUSE OF OUR EXPERIMENTAL NATURE, IT WAS DEEMED WISEST NOT TO SEPARATE US-- THUS, WE BECAME CLOSE ... AS BROTHERS WILL.


AS WE GREW, MY COGNITIVE POWERS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY -- I DELIGHTED AT AMAZING MY TEACHERS WITH MY HYPER-RECEPTIVE ABILITIES...
- INCREDIBLE! —HE ACTUALLY PLUCKS THE ANSWERS FROM MY MIND!
HE CAN READ MINDS -- I WONDER... WILL HE BE ABLE TO FORESEE FUTURE EVENTS...?

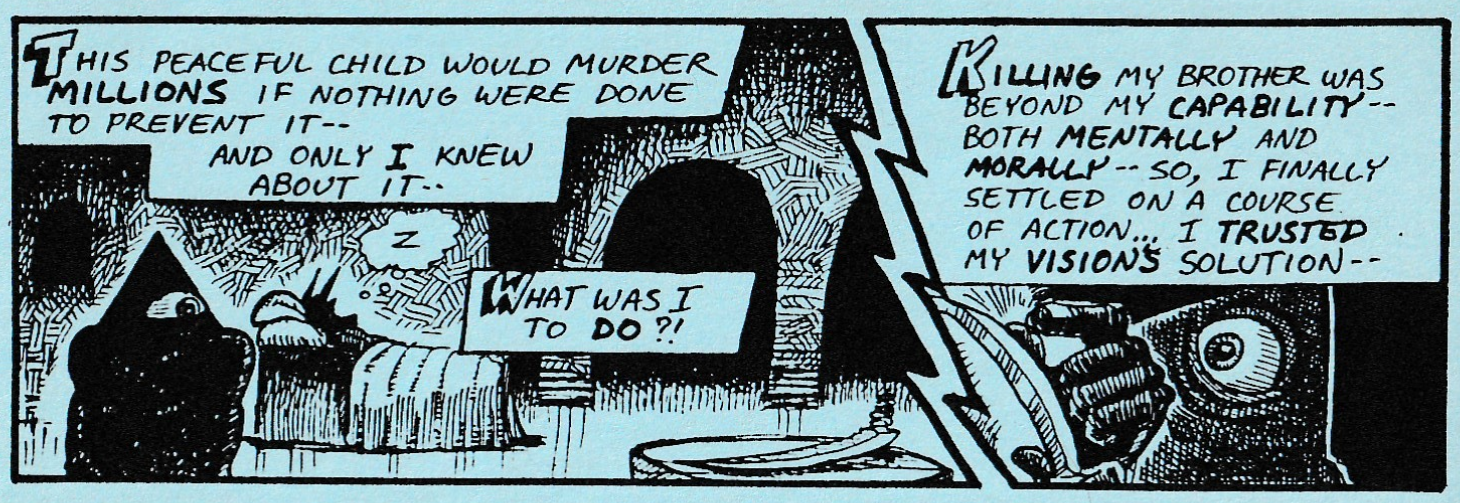

SEVEN IS A STRANGELY POTENT NUMBER... IT WAS ON THE NIGHT OF MY SEVENTH BIRTHDAY THAT I HAD MY FIRST DREAM...
IN IT, MY BROTHER WAS DOING ... HORRIBLE THINGS--!
DIE! DIE!
AAAAAA

I KNEW -- AS I KNEW SO MANY THINGS, THAT THE DREAM MUST BE A PROPHESY--!
Z

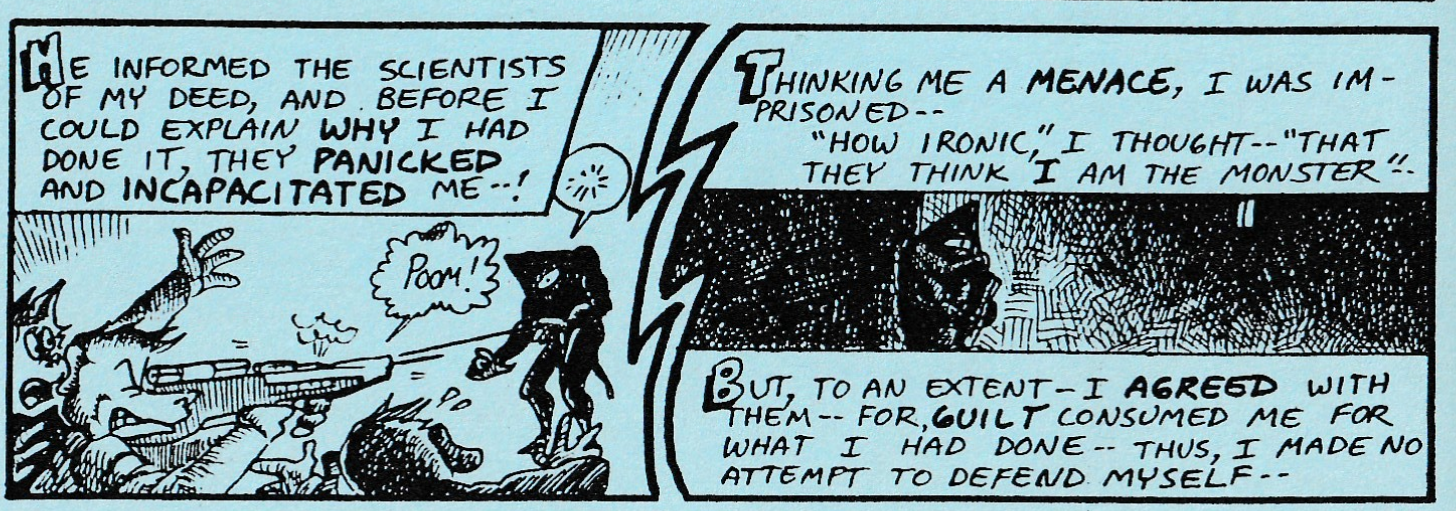

BUT I WAS YOUNG -- I HAD NO EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH THINGS -- AND I WORRIED THAT MY MIND MIGHT BE PLAYING GAMES WITH ME --
I HOPED -- I PRAYED THAT THE DREAM WAS NOT A LITERAL ONE--!

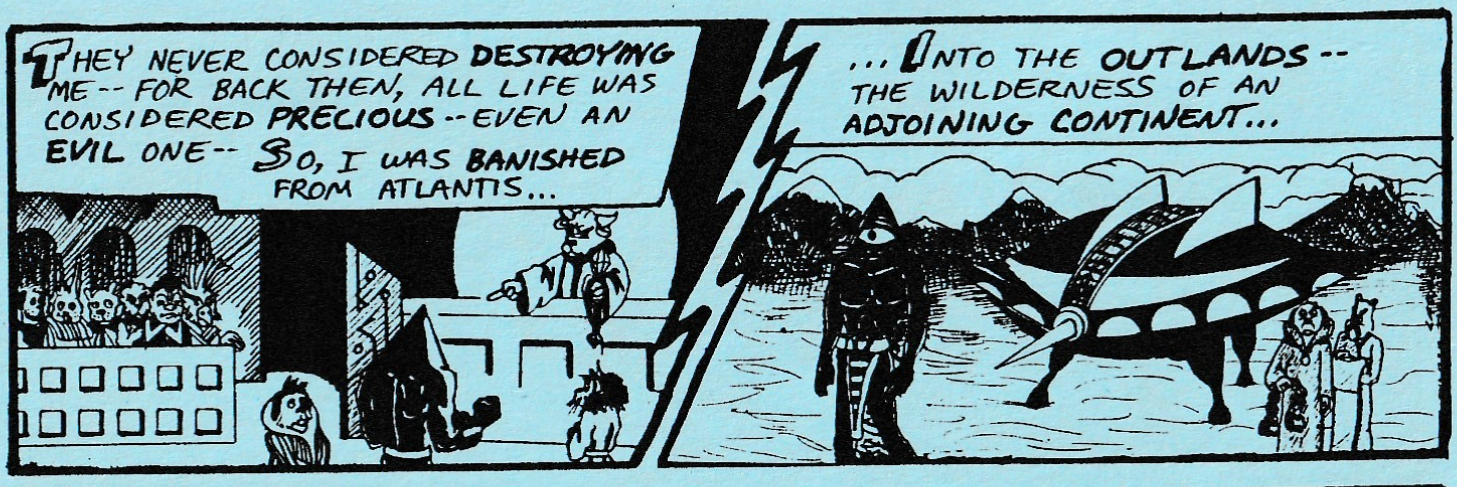

SO I VISITED AN ATLANTEAN ORACLE -- ONE EXPERIENCED IN THE ART OF FORESIGHT... OR AT LEAST AS EXPERIENCED AS ONE MAY BE IN SUCH A DOUBTFUL FIELD...
LYCAS SOOTHSAYER
WHEN I TOLD HIM OF MY DREAM HE SAID IT PROPHESIED MY BROTHER'S EVENTUAL THREAT TO THE WORLD --!
"IT IS A WARNING THAT ZANOMANON WILL BECOME AN EVIL BEING --! --A MONSTER SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER KNOWN!! WHO, IF HE IS NOT STOPPED -- MAY EVENTUALLY THREATEN ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET!!
-THAT'LL BE FIFTY DROGALS, PLEASE!
TO SAY I WAS TROUBLED BY THIS... INTERPRETATION, WOULD BE PUTTING IT MILDLY -- AND TO ADD TO MY PROBLEMS...
-I KEPT HAVING THOSE OMINOUS DREAMS!
EACH DREAM SURPASSED THE PREVIOUS ONE IN THEIR ESCALATION OF SADISTIC ACTS! IN EACH ONE, MY BROTHER PLAYED A DIFFERENT ROLE - BUT EACH ROLE HAD A COMMON THEME --
SADIST -- TYRANT -- MADMAN -- UNTIL, FINALLY -- HE HELD THE EARTH IN HIS HANDS -
-- AND THOSE HANDS SLOWLY BEGAN TO SQUEEZE -- TO WREST THE LIFE FROM OUR HAPLESS PLANET --
AT THAT POINT -- I AWOKE -- FEARFUL AND TREMBLING --
"WHAT CAN I DO ?! WHY AM I BEING TORTURED SO? WHY?
IF THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO -- WHAT IS IT?!"
THEN, SUDDENLY, A VISION CAME TO MY MIND! CRISP AND VIVID --
AND A STRANGELY FAMILIAR VOICE SAID...
"...THE SEVERED TAIL OF ZANOMANON... THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE OF THWARTING THE VILLAIN --!"

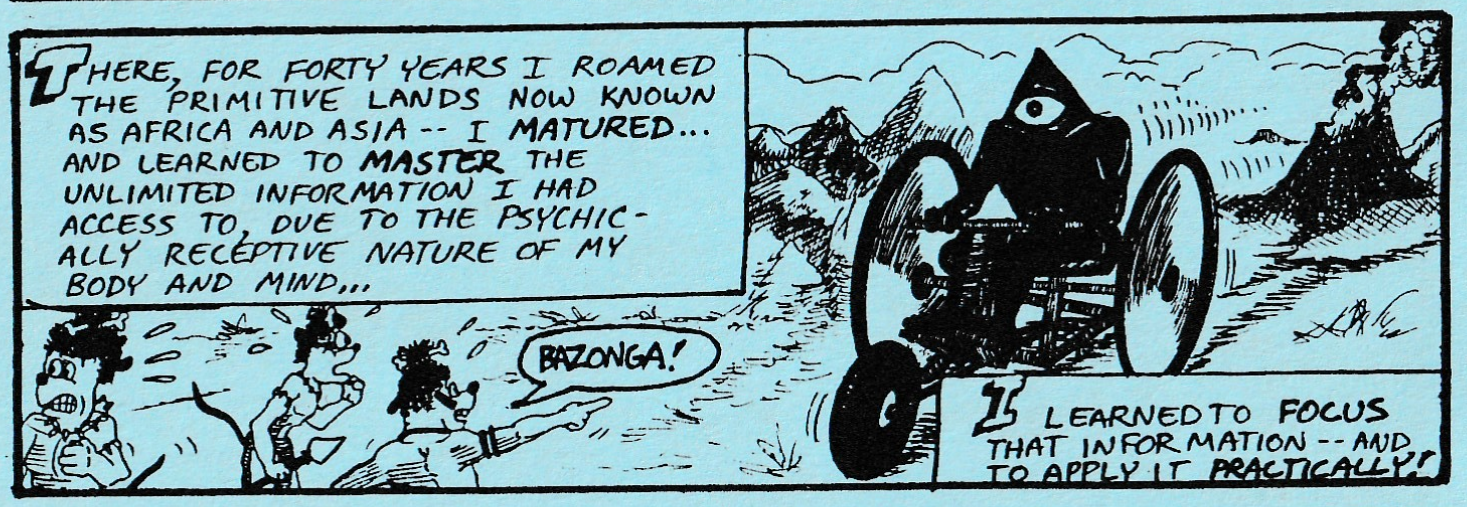
JUST AS SUDDENLY -- THE VOICE AND VISION VANISHED -- -- AND THERE SLEPT MY BROTHER -- LOOKING SO INNOCENT -- SO PEACEFUL --
HOW COULD THIS CHILD BECOME THE FIENDISH DEVIL THAT I HAD BEHELD?!
BUT, THE SOURCE HELP ME -- INSIDE ME, I KNEW IT WAS TRUE -- I KNEW THOSE DREAMS WOULD COME TO PASS --

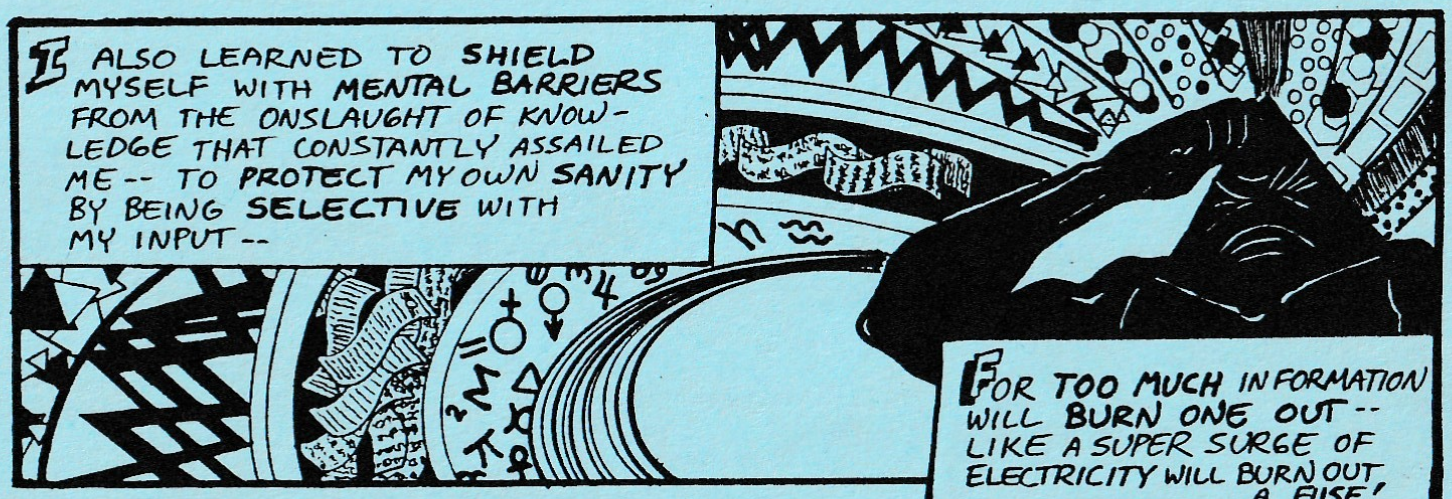

THIS PEACEFUL CHILD WOULD MURDER MILLIONS IF NOTHING WERE DONE TO PREVENT IT -- AND ONLY I KNEW ABOUT IT --
Z
WHAT WAS I TO DO?!
KILLING MY BROTHER WAS BEYOND MY CAPABILITY -- BOTH MENTALLY AND MORALLY -- SO, I FINALLY SETTLED ON A COURSE OF ACTION... I TRUSTED MY VISION'S SOLUTION --

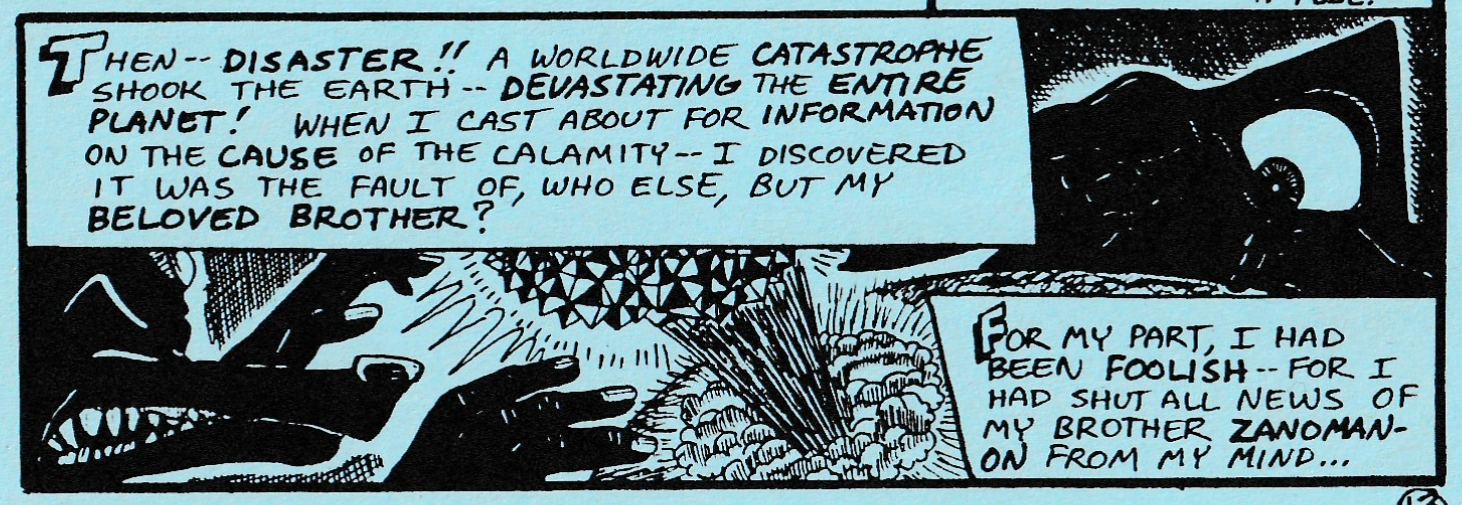
CHONK!
NEEDLESS TO SAY -- MY POOR BROTHER DID NOT TAKE MY ACTION IN THE BEST SPIRIT --
AAAAAAAA
HOW COULD I TELL HIM -- THAT I HAD DONE IT TO SAVE THE WORLD?!


HE INFORMED THE SCIENTISTS OF MY DEED, AND BEFORE I COULD EXPLAIN WHY I HAD DONE IT, THEY PANICKED AND INCAPACITATED ME --!
POOM!
THINKING ME A MENACE, I WAS IMPRISONED -- "HOW IRONIC," I THOUGHT -- "THAT THEY THINK I AM THE MONSTER".
BUT, TO AN EXTENT - I AGREED WITH THEM -- FOR, GUILT CONSUMED ME FOR WHAT I HAD DONE -- THUS, I MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DEFEND MYSELF --


THEY NEVER CONSIDERED DESTROYING ME -- FOR BACK THEN, ALL LIFE WAS CONSIDERED PRECIOUS -- EVEN AN EVIL ONE -- SO, I WAS BANISHED FROM ATLANTIS...
... INTO THE OUTLANDS -- THE WILDERNESS OF AN ADJOINING CONTINENT...


THERE, FOR FORTY YEARS I ROAMED THE PRIMITIVE LANDS NOW KNOWN AS AFRICA AND ASIA -- I MATURED... AND LEARNED TO MASTER THE UNLIMITED INFORMATION I HAD ACCESS TO, DUE TO THE PSYCHICALLY RECEPTIVE NATURE OF MY BODY AND MIND...
BAZONGA!
I LEARNED TO FOCUS THAT INFORMATION -- AND TO APPLY IT PRACTICALLY!


I ALSO LEARNED TO SHIELD MYSELF WITH MENTAL BARRIERS FROM THE ONSLAUGHT OF KNOWLEDGE THAT CONSTANTLY ASSAILED ME -- TO PROTECT MY OWN SANITY BY BEING SELECTIVE WITH MY INPUT --
FOR TOO MUCH INFORMATION WILL BURN ONE OUT -- LIKE A SUPER SURGE OF ELECTRICITY WILL BURN OUT A FUSE!


THEN -- DISASTER!! A WORLDWIDE CATASTROPHE SHOOK THE EARTH -- DEVASTATING THE ENTIRE PLANET! WHEN I CAST ABOUT FOR INFORMATION ON THE CAUSE OF THE CALAMITY -- I DISCOVERED IT WAS THE FAULT OF, WHO ELSE, BUT MY BELOVED BROTHER?
FOR MY PART, I HAD BEEN FOOLISH -- FOR I HAD SHUT ALL NEWS OF MY BROTHER ZANOMANON FROM MY MIND...

I MADE MY WAY INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE EARTH AND DWELT THERE FOR MANY YEARS IN SOLITUDE...
I WAS HAUNTED BY GUILT -- GUILT FOR WHAT I HAD AND HAD NOT DONE TO MY BROTHER-- --GUILT THAT I HADN'T KILLED HIM WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE --
...SO THAT THE WORLD COULD HAVE BEEN SPARED THIS AWFUL CALAMITY..! I STILL DENIED MYSELF ACCESS TO ANY INFORMATION ABOUT HIM-- I PRAYED HE HAD PERISHED IN THE DELUGE --AND THEN I WRANGLED WITH THE ANGUISH I FELT FOR WISHING SUCH A THING--
SO, YEARS PASSED... AND I EXPLORED MY UNDERGROUND WORLD...
THEN- DISASTER STRUCK AGAIN-! ZANOMANON AND PART OF HIS BOOT ARMY DISCOVERED ME--! I WAS TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE-- STILL BLOCKING OUT ANY INPUT THAT HAD TO DO WITH HIM--
MENDEL!!
Z
ZANOMANON WAS DELIGHTED AT FINDING ME! IT WAS HIS FIRST CHANCE TO REVENGE HIMSELF ON ME SINCE OUR CHILDHOOD IN ATLANTIS . . . AND DID HE EVER!
HOLY COW!!
JEEZ!
AA!

I WAS CHAINED IN THE CAVE YOU FOUND ME IN -- CHAINED AND **TORTURED** FOR INFORMATION THAT WOULD HELP **ZANOMANON** IN HIS PLANS -- BUT FOR **ME** -- THE **WORST** OF IT CAME SHORTLY AFTER MY CAPTURE -- **ZANOMANON** CAME TO **GLOAT** OVER MY HELPLESSNESS -- AND IT WAS **THEN** THAT I RECEIVED THE **SHOCK** OF MY LIFE!

HE RANTED AND RAVED -- HE SPEWED OUT HIS **HATE** AND **BILE** IN A RELENTLESS MONOLOGUE -- I HAD **EXPECTED** THAT -- EVEN, STRANGELY **NEEDED** -- **WANTED** TO HEAR IT -- HOPING I MIGHT SOMEHOW **ABSOLVE** MYSELF BY ENDURING THE PENANCE OF **TORTURE** AT MY BROTHER'S HAND --

IT ALL CAME OUT -- THE **BITTERNESS** THE **OUTRAGE** -- THE **HATE** -- AT MY **BETRAYAL** -- AND THAT WAS THE **CRUX** OF IT ALL -- MY **BETRAYAL**!!

SUDDENLY, MY PSYCHIC BARRIERS **COLLAPSED** -- AND I WAS **FLOODED HELPLESSLY** WITH ALL THE KNOWLEDGE I HAD **DENIED** MYSELF ABOUT MY BROTHER --!

I SAW HIS LIFE AFTER I LEFT **ATLANTIS** -- HIS BITTERNESS AT MY MUTILATION OF HIM HAD LEFT HIM **SULLEN** AND **ECCENTRIC** -- HE **DISTRUSTED** EVERYONE AND **SHUNNED** SOCIAL EVENTS -- -- HOW COULD HE TRUST **STRANGERS** WHEN HIS OWN **BROTHER** COULD BETRAY HIM SO?!

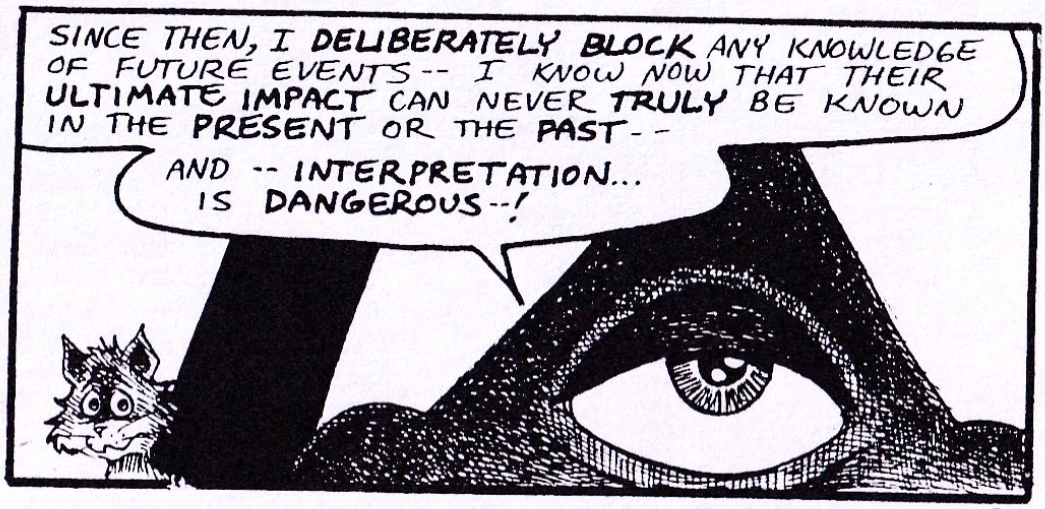
BY THE TIME HE DISCOVERED HIS LATENT POWER TO **TRANSFORM LIVING BEINGS** HE WAS AN ANGRY, BROODING **MALCONTENT** WHO COULD **NEVER** HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO RESPONSIBLY HANDLE EVEN **LIMITED** POWER OVER PEOPLE--

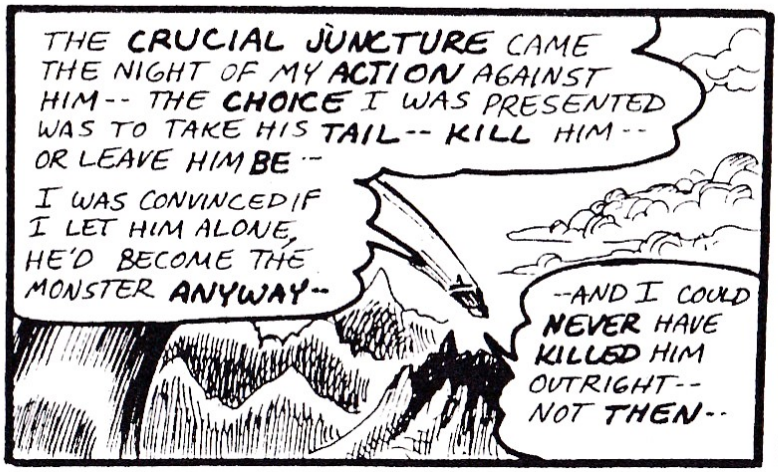
--MUCH LESS **EXTREME** POWER--!

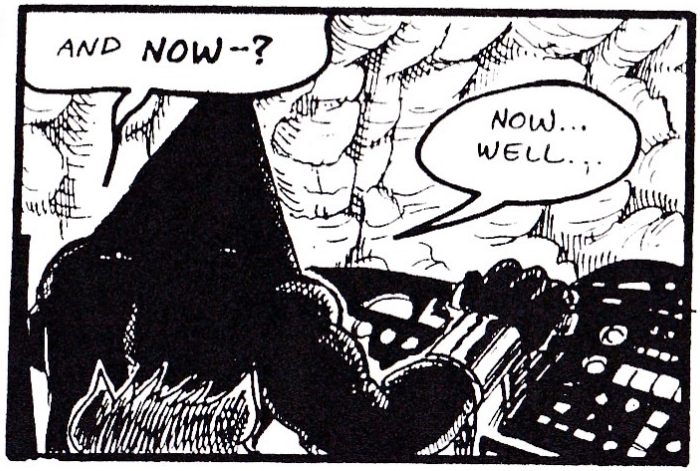
SO--! THEREIT WAS! **WORSE** THAN I EVER **IMAGINED** -- ALL THE **CATASTROPHE**-- ALL THE **RUIN**-- THE **CHAOS**-- **ALL** OF IT--

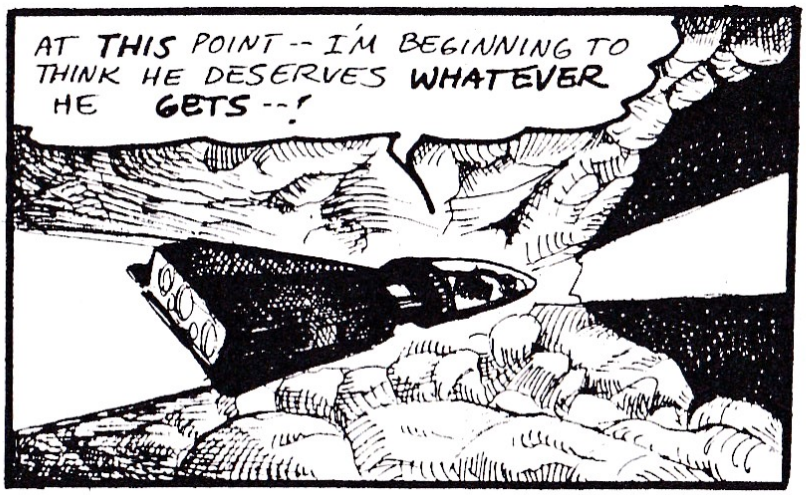
— **MY FAULT!**

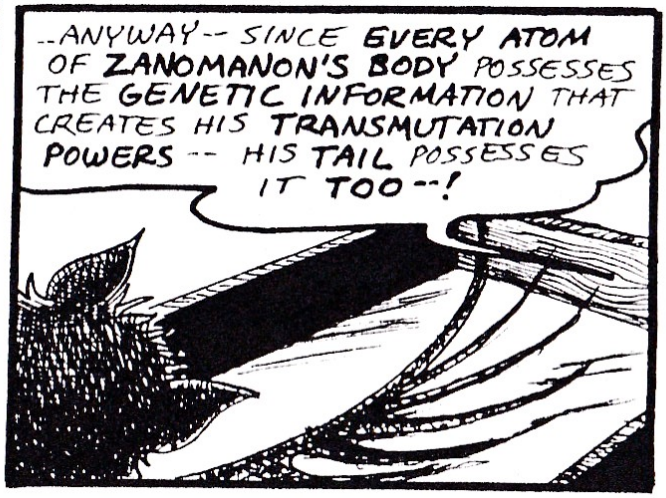
AS A DIRECT RESULT OF MY MISGUIDED ACTIONS, MY BROTHER HAD BECOME THE VERY MONSTER I HAD TRIED SO FOOLISHLY TO **PREVENT**--!

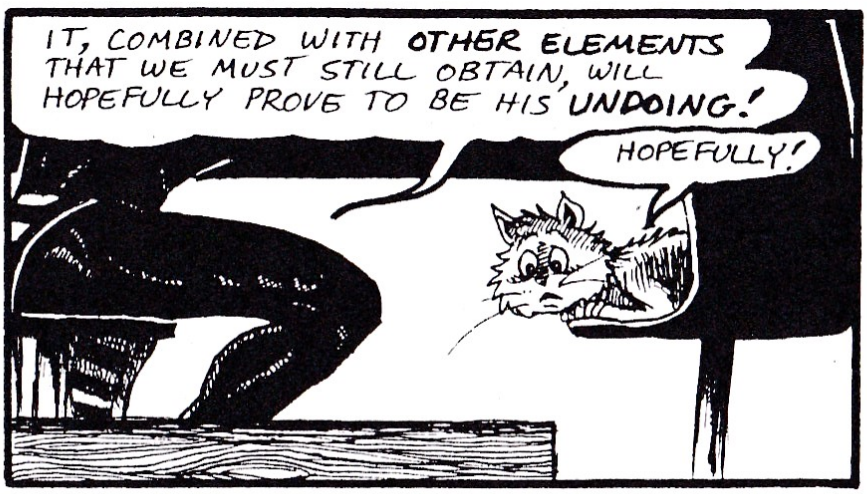


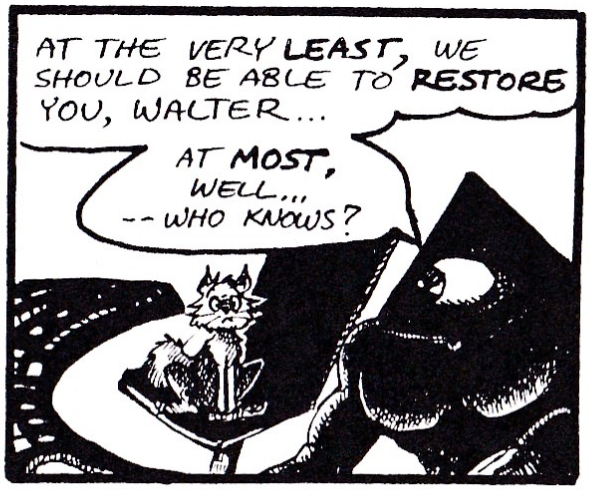

THE CRUCIAL JUNCTURE CAME THE NIGHT OF MY ACTION AGAINST HIM-- THE CHOICE I WAS PRESENTED WAS TO TAKE HIS TAIL-- KILL HIM-- OR LEAVE HIM BE--
I WAS CONVINCED IF I LET HIM ALONE, HE'D BECOME THE MONSTER ANYWAY--
--AND I COULD NEVER HAVE KILLED HIM OUTRIGHT-- NOT THEN--

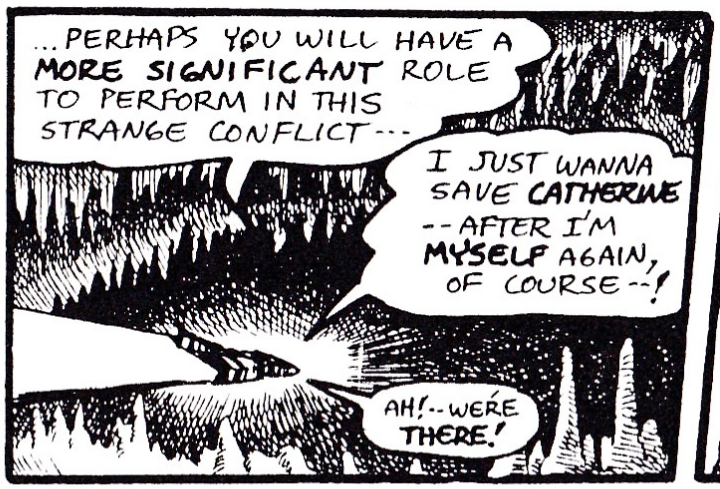

AND NOW--?
NOW... WELL...

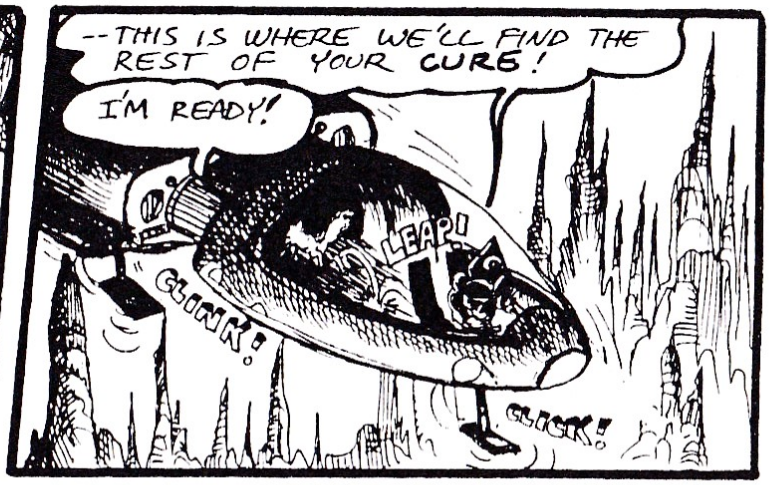

AT THIS POINT -- I'M BEGINNING TO THINK HE DESERVES WHATEVER HE GETS --!

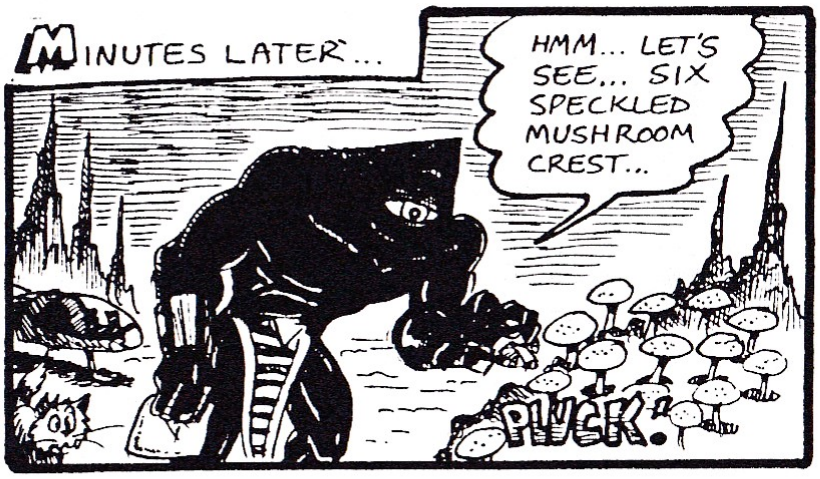

--ANYWAY -- SINCE EVERY ATOM OF ZANOMANON'S BODY POSSESSES THE GENETIC INFORMATION THAT CREATES HIS TRANSMUTATION POWERS -- HIS TAIL POSSESSES IT TOO --!

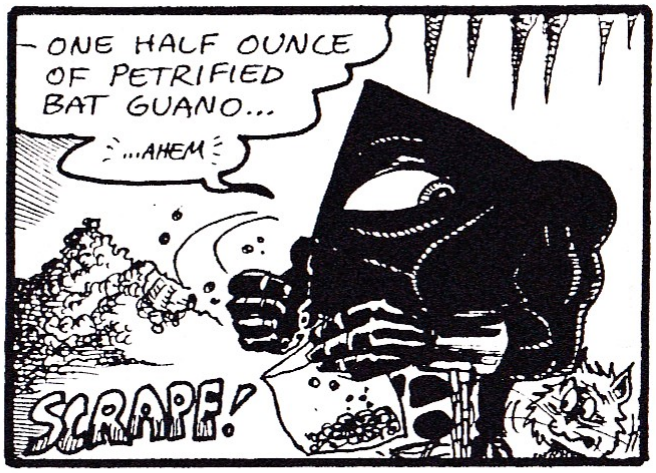

IT, COMBINED WITH OTHER ELEMENTS THAT WE MUST STILL OBTAIN, WILL HOPEFULLY PROVE TO BE HIS UNDOING!
HOPEFULLY!

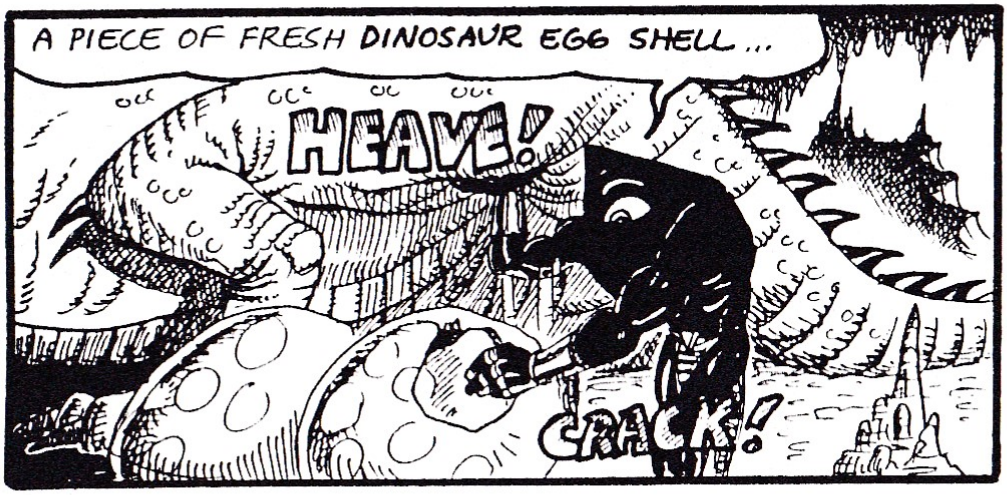

AT THE VERY LEAST, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESTORE YOU, WALTER...
AT MOST, WELL... -- WHO KNOWS?

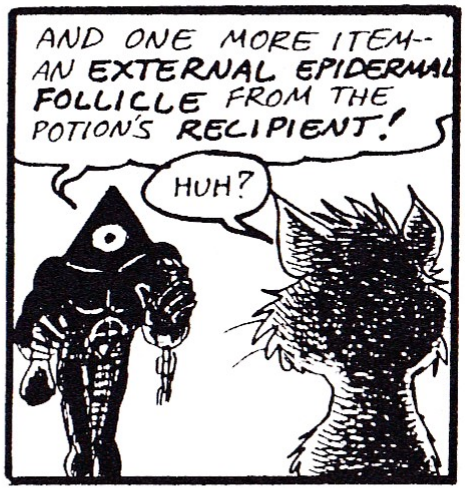

...PERHAPS YOU WILL HAVE A MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PERFORM IN THIS STRANGE CONFLICT---
I JUST WANNA SAVE CATHERINE -- AFTER I'M MYSELF AGAIN, OF COURSE --!
AH! -- WE'RE THERE!

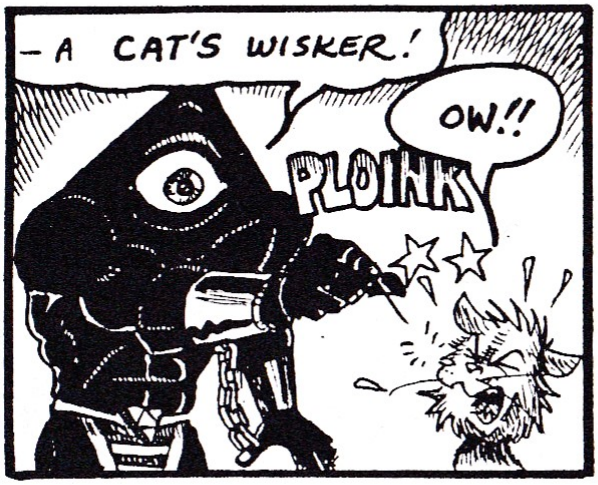

--THIS IS WHERE WE'LL FIND THE REST OF YOUR CURE!
I'M READY!
LEAP!
CLUNK!
CLICK!

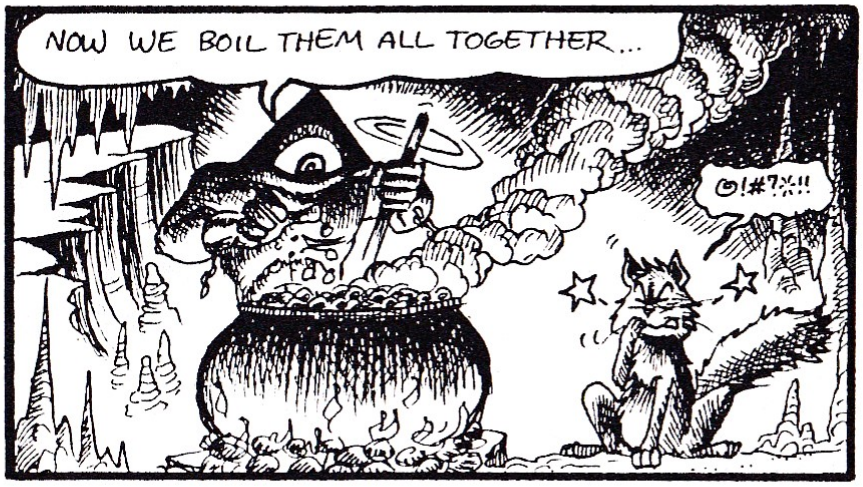

MINUTES LATER...
HMM... LET'S SEE... SIX SPECKLED MUSHROOM CREST...
PLUCK!

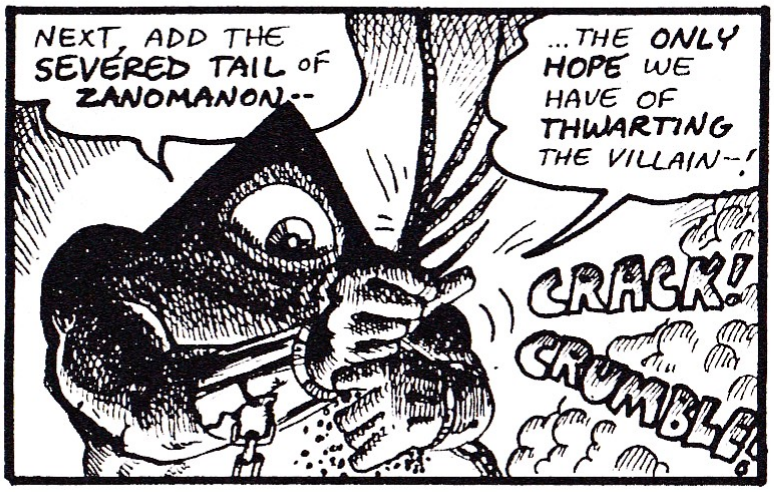

ONE HALF OUNCE OF PETRIFIED BAT GUANO...
...AHEM
SCRAPE!

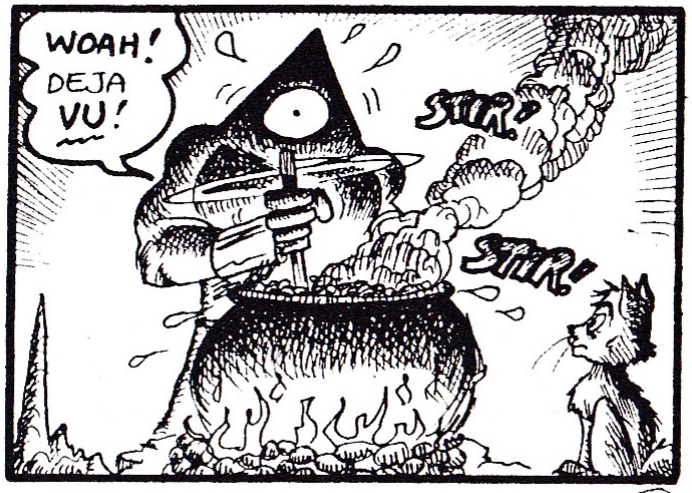

A PIECE OF FRESH DINOSAUR EGG SHELL...
HEAVE!
CRACK!

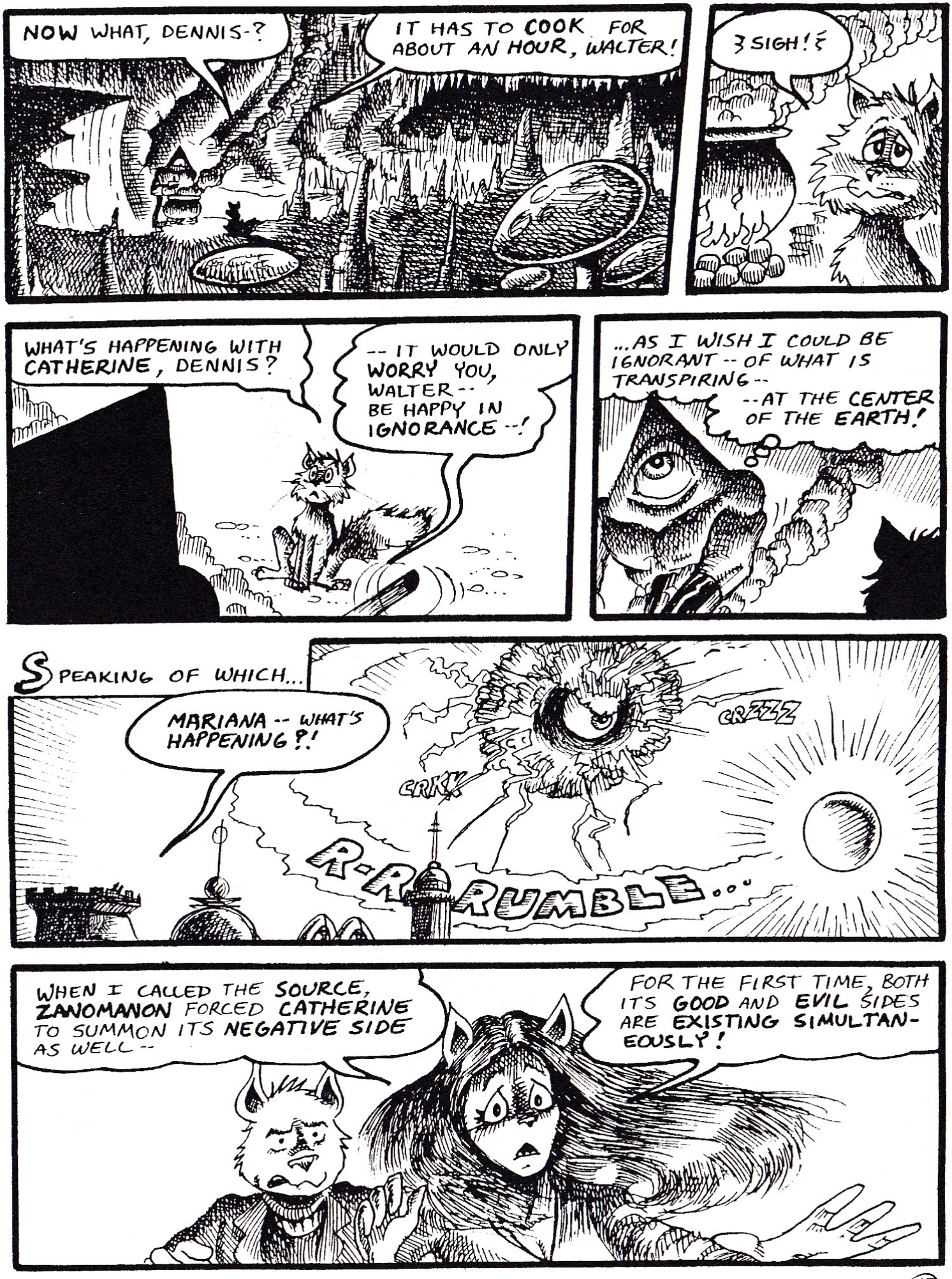

AND ONE MORE ITEM-- AN EXTERNAL EPIDERMAL FOLLICLE FROM THE POTION'S RECIPIENT!
HUH?


A CAT'S WISKER!
OW!!
PLOINK

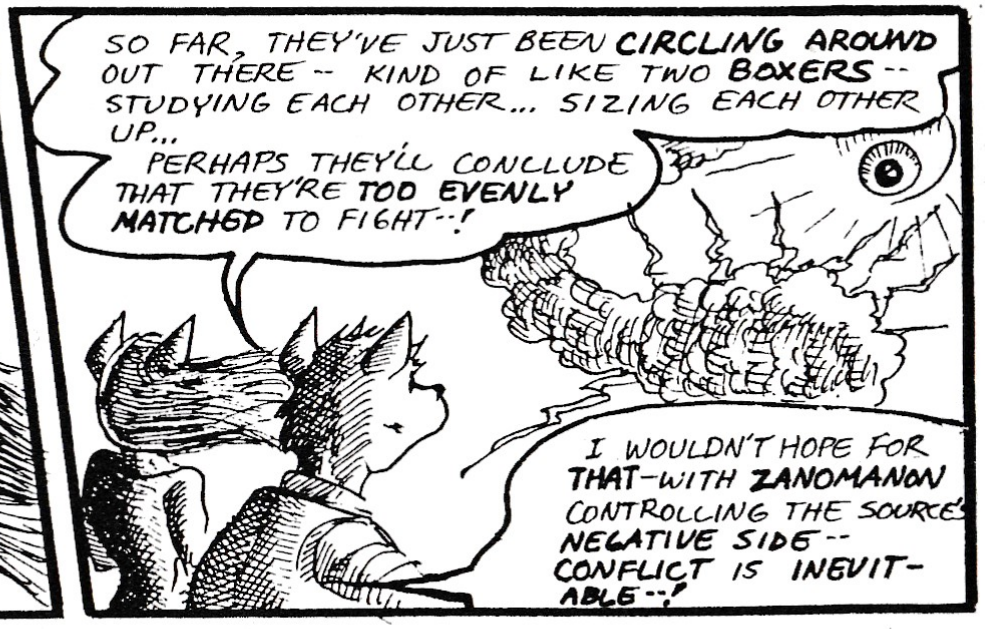

NOW WE BOIL THEM ALL TOGETHER...
©!#?%!!

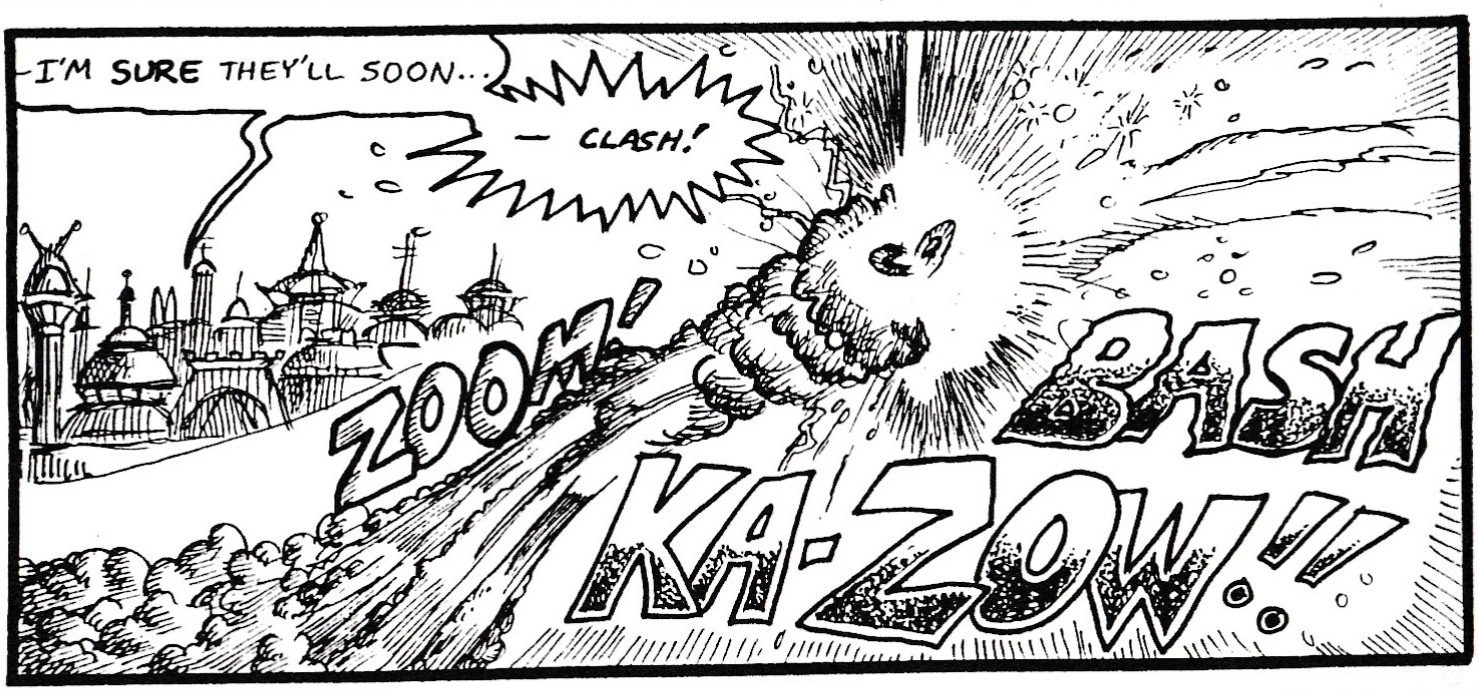

NEXT, ADD THE SEVERED TAIL OF ZANOMANON--
...THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE OF THWARTING THE VILLAIN--!
CRACK!
CRUMBLE!

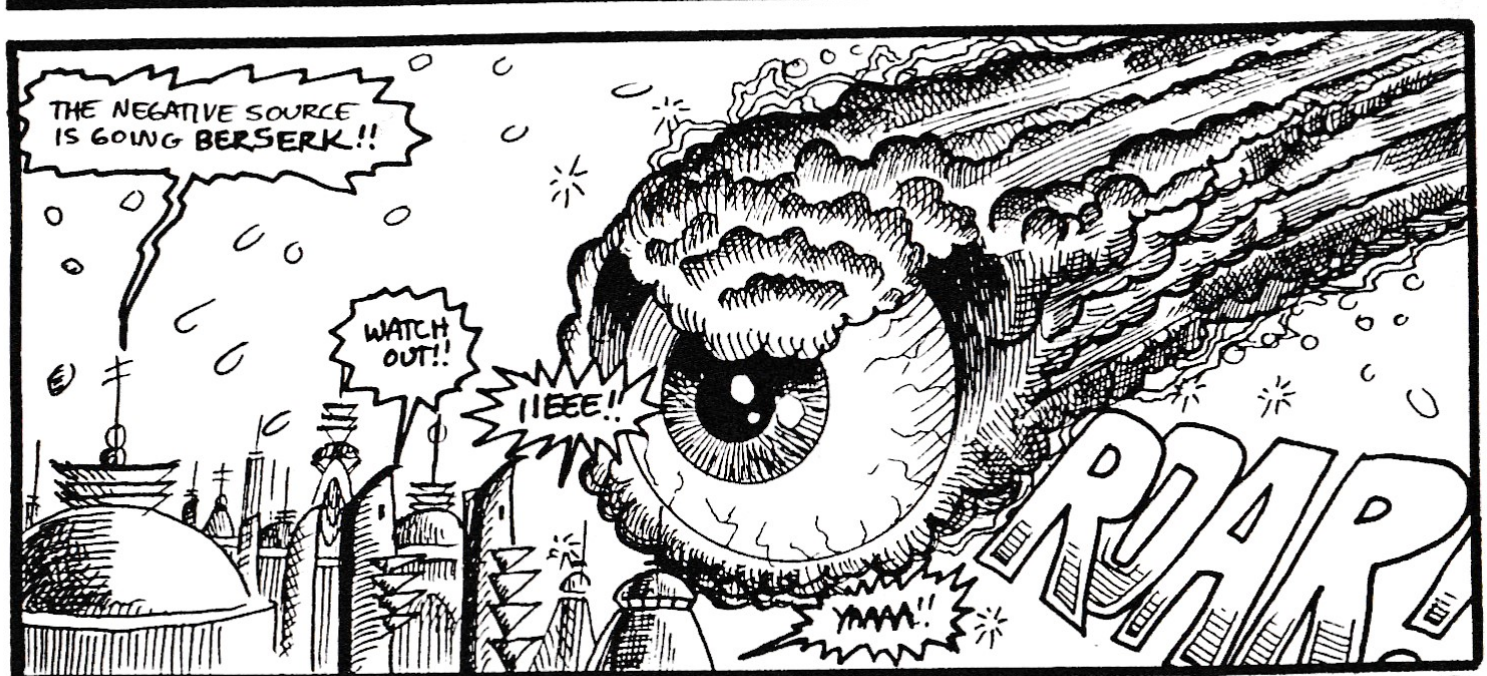

WOAH! DEJA VU!
STIR!
STIR!

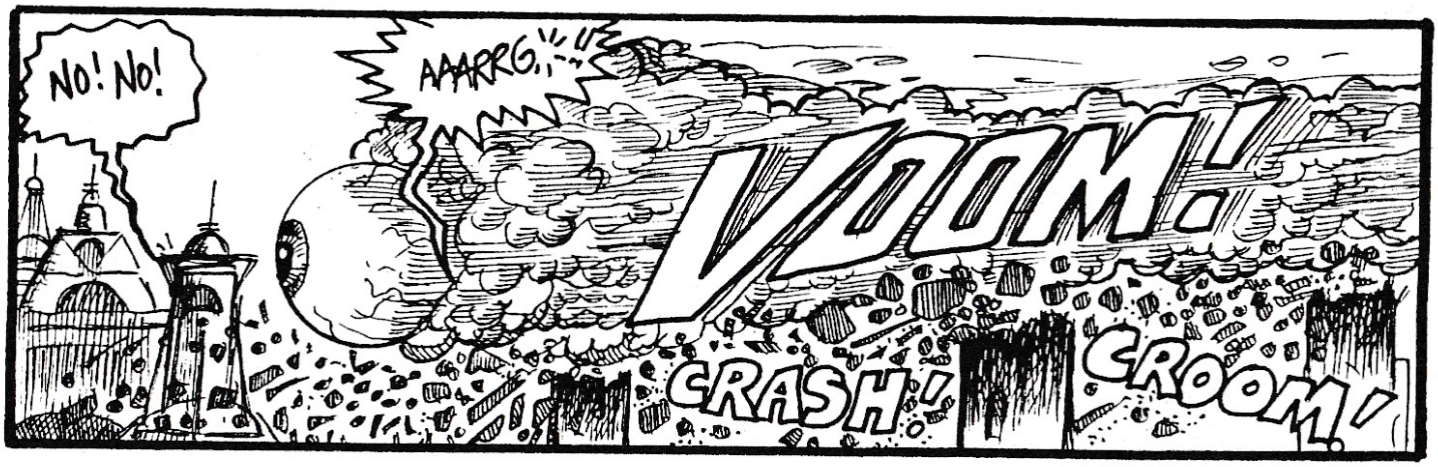

NOW WHAT, DENNIS-?
IT HAS TO COOK FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, WALTER!
SIGH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CATHERINE, DENNIS?
-- IT WOULD ONLY WORRY YOU, WALTER -- BE HAPPY IN IGNORANCE --!
...AS I WISH I COULD BE IGNORANT -- OF WHAT IS TRANSPIRING --
--AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
MARIANA -- WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
CRRK!
CRZZZZ
R-R-RUMBLE...
WHEN I CALLED THE SOURCE, ZANOMANON FORCED CATHERINE TO SUMMON ITS NEGATIVE SIDE AS WELL --
FOR THE FIRST TIME, BOTH ITS GOOD AND EVIL SIDES ARE EXISTING SIMULTANEOUSLY!

I -- DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT --
--IT MAY BE SIMILAR TO FIGHTING MYSELF--


SO FAR, THEY'VE JUST BEEN CIRCLING AROUND OUT THERE -- KIND OF LIKE TWO BOXERS -- STUDYING EACH OTHER... SIZING EACH OTHER UP...
PERHAPS THEY'LL CONCLUDE THAT THEY'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED TO FIGHT--!
I WOULDN'T HOPE FOR THAT-WITH ZANOMANON CONTROLLING THE SOURCE'S NEGATIVE SIDE -- CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE--!


I'M SURE THEY'LL SOON...
— CLASH!
ZOOM!
BASH
KA-ZOW!!

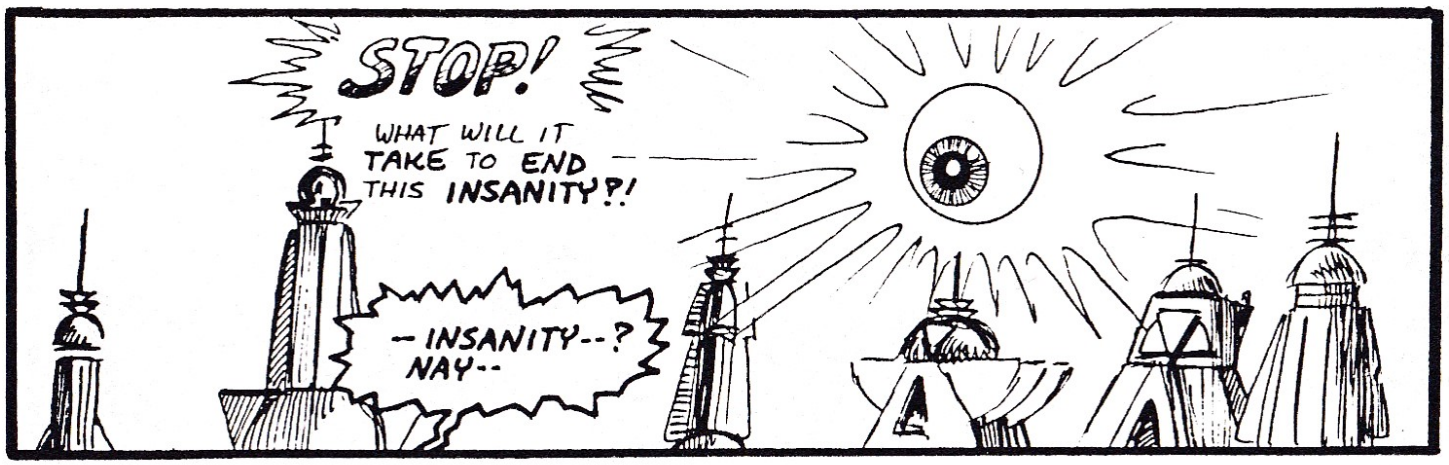

THE NEGATIVE SOURCE IS GOING BERSERK!!
WATCH OUT!!
!!EEE!!
YAAA!!
RAAR

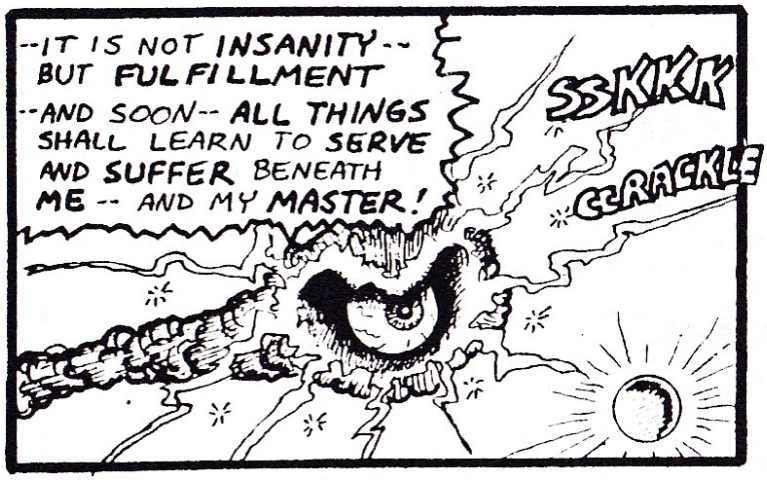

NO! NO!
AAARRG!
VOOM!
CRASH!
CROOM!

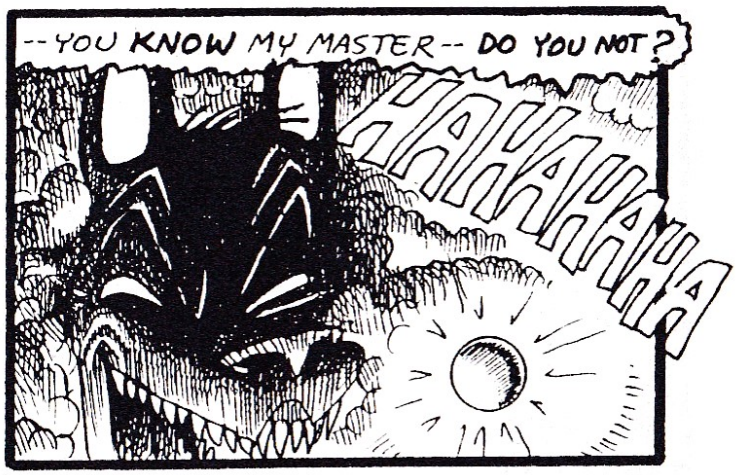
BRASH!

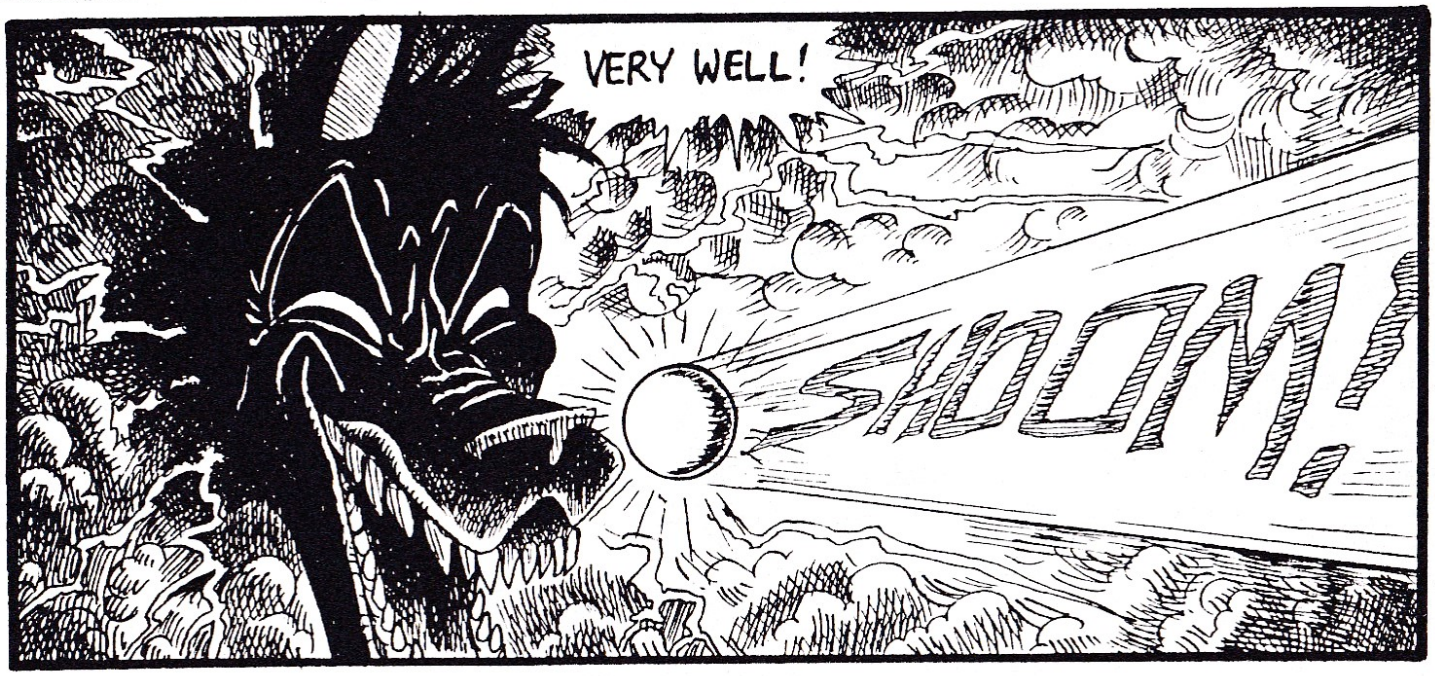
YOW!
AAA!
VRBOOM!

YES... YES!
... PAIN... SUFFERING -- DESTRUCTION --!!
— AT LONG LAST MY DESTINY SHALL BE ACHIEVED --
-- MY-- ECSTASY--!
HAHAHA!!

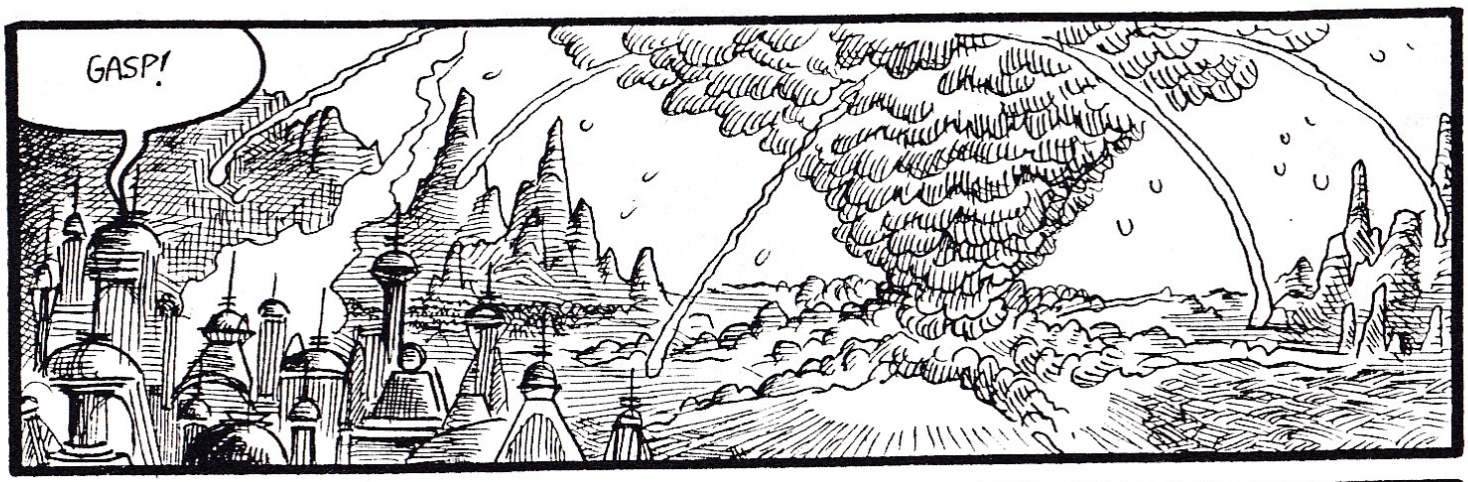

STOP!
WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO END THIS INSANITY?!
--INSANITY--? NAY--


--IT IS NOT INSANITY-- BUT FULFILLMENT --AND SOON-- ALL THINGS SHALL LEARN TO SERVE AND SUFFER BENEATH ME -- AND MY MASTER!
SSKKK
CRACKLE


--YOU KNOW MY MASTER-- DO YOU NOT?
HAHAHAHA

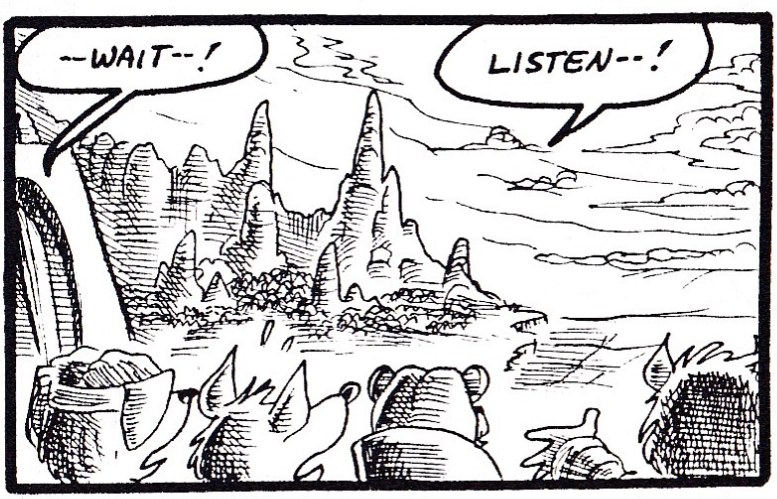

VERY WELL!
SHOOM!

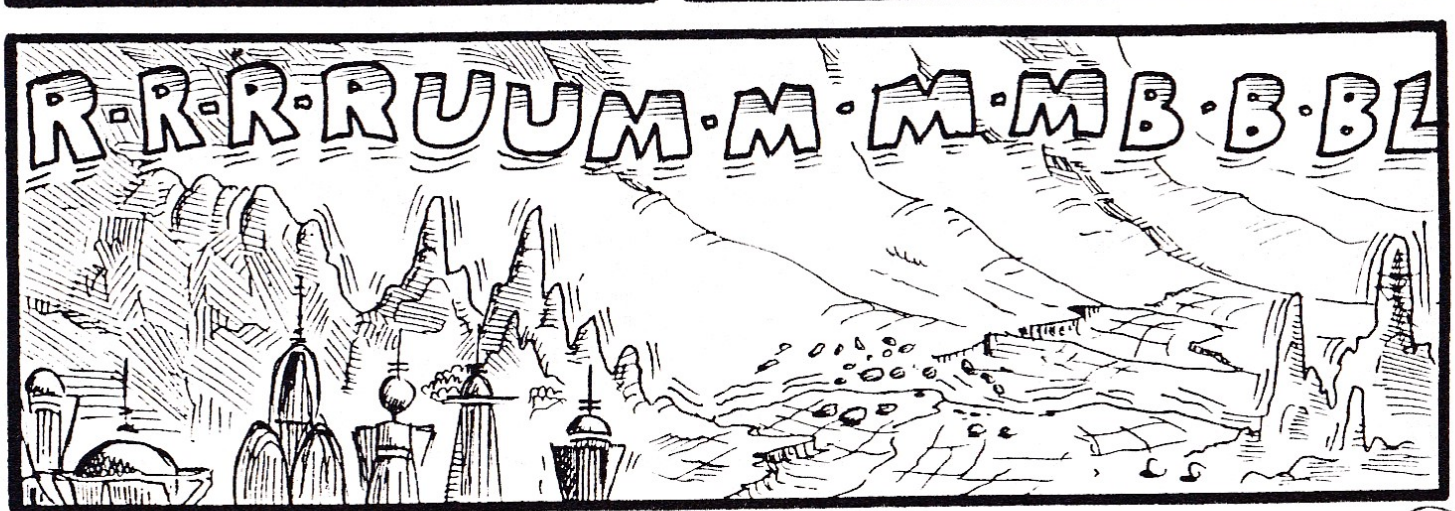
KER-SPLODE!

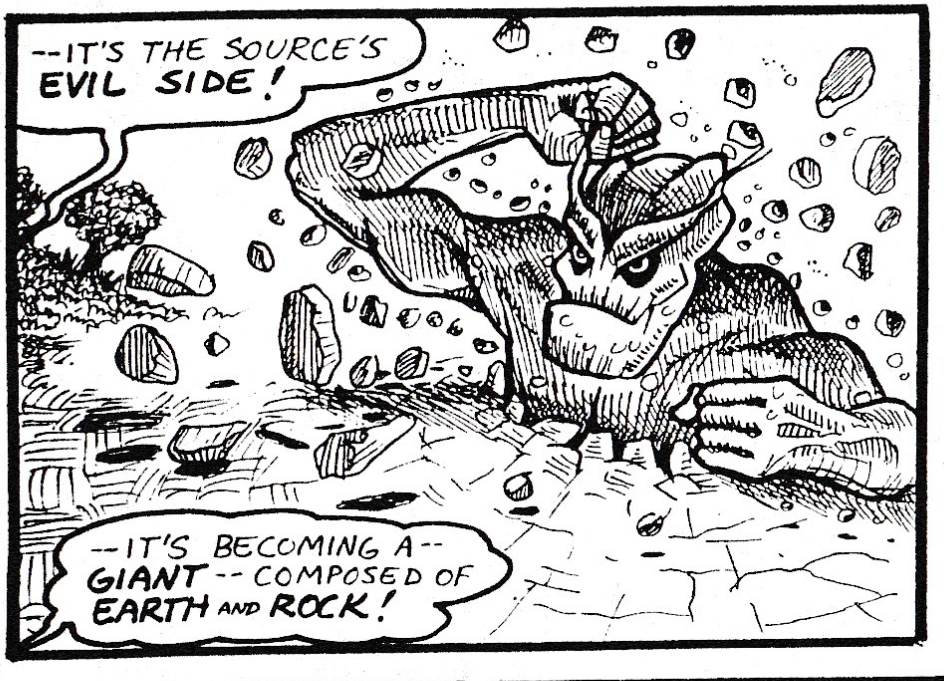

GASP!

WHA -- WHAT HAPPENED?
DID THEY DESTROY EACH OTHER?
COUGH-COUGH! THEY -- THEY COULDN'T HAVE -- -- COULD THEY?

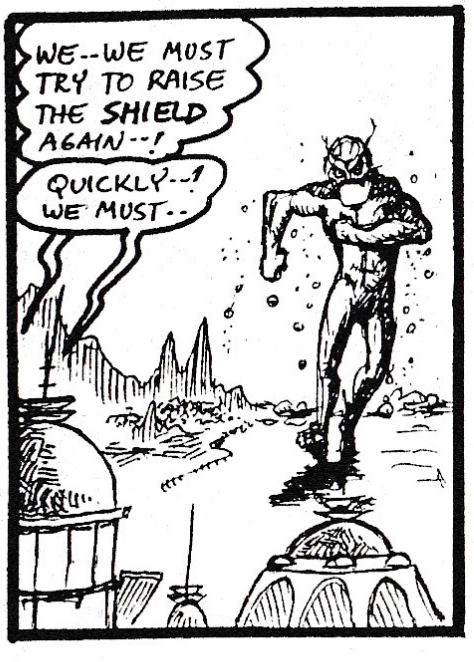
-THEY SEEM TO HAVE DISINTEGRATED--!

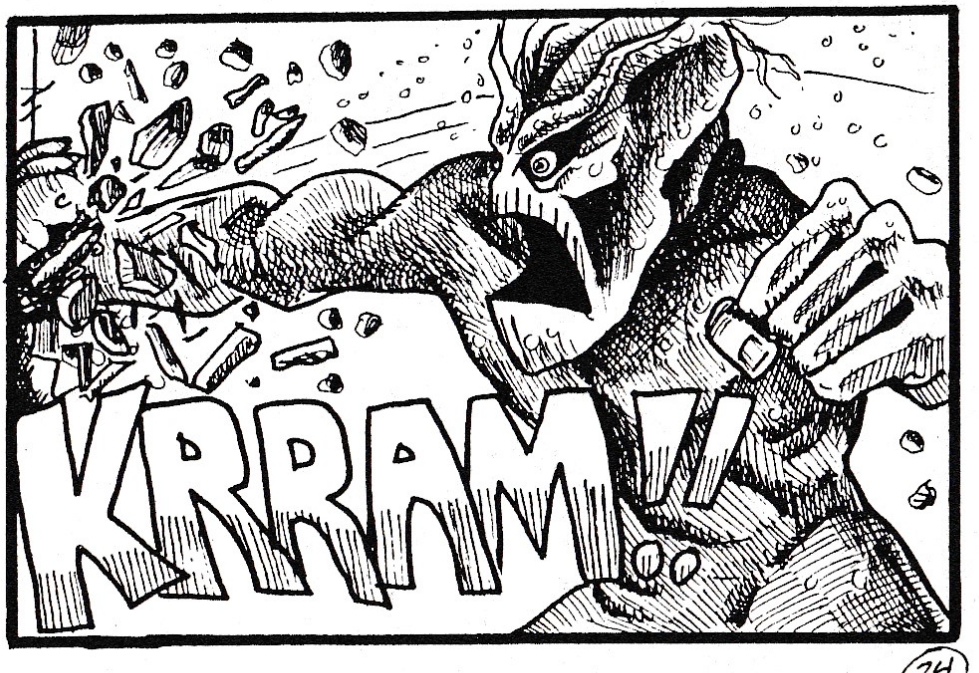

--WAIT--!
LISTEN--!


R·R·R·RUUM·M·M·MB·B·BL

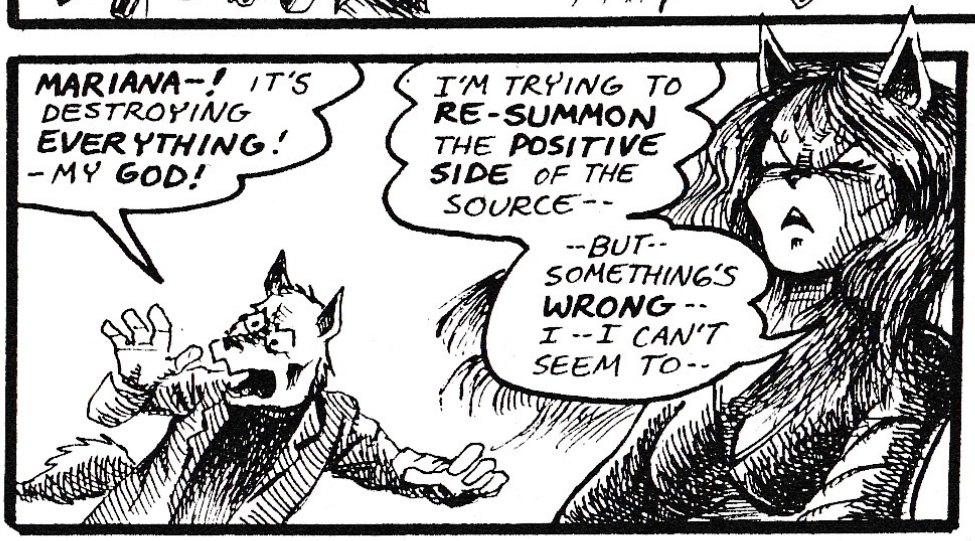

--IT'S THE SOURCE'S EVIL SIDE!
--IT'S BECOMING A-- GIANT -- COMPOSED OF EARTH AND ROCK!

IT'S COMING THIS WAY--
WHERE'S MARIANA?
WHERE'S THE OTHER SOURCE?
WE'RE UNPROTECTED!


WE--WE MUST TRY TO RAISE THE SHIELD AGAIN--!
QUICKLY--! WE MUST--

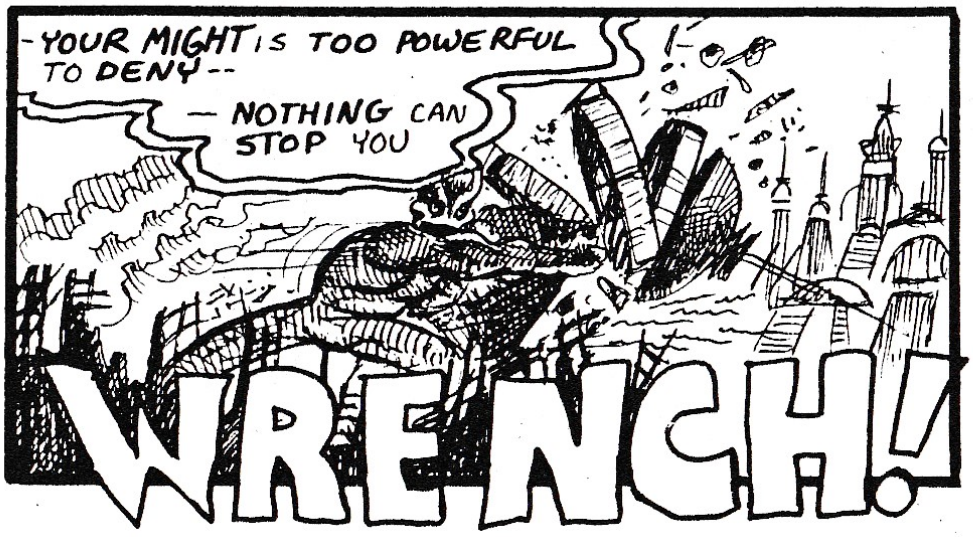

KRRAM!!

BROM!
CRASH!

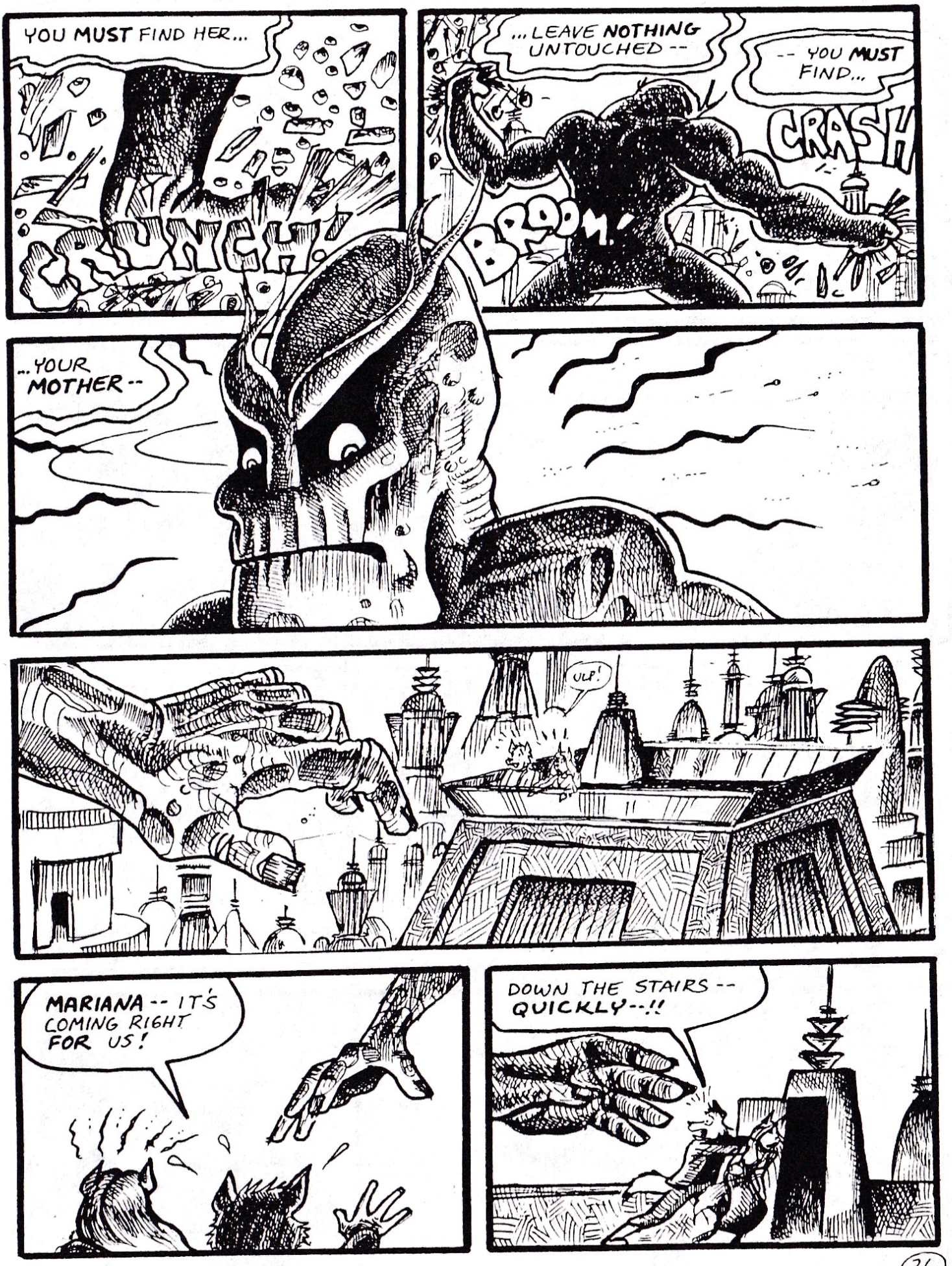

MARIANA-! IT'S DESTROYING EVERYTHING! -MY GOD!
I'M TRYING TO RE-SUMMON THE POSITIVE SIDE OF THE SOURCE--
--BUT-- SOMETHING'S WRONG-- I--I CAN'T SEEM TO--

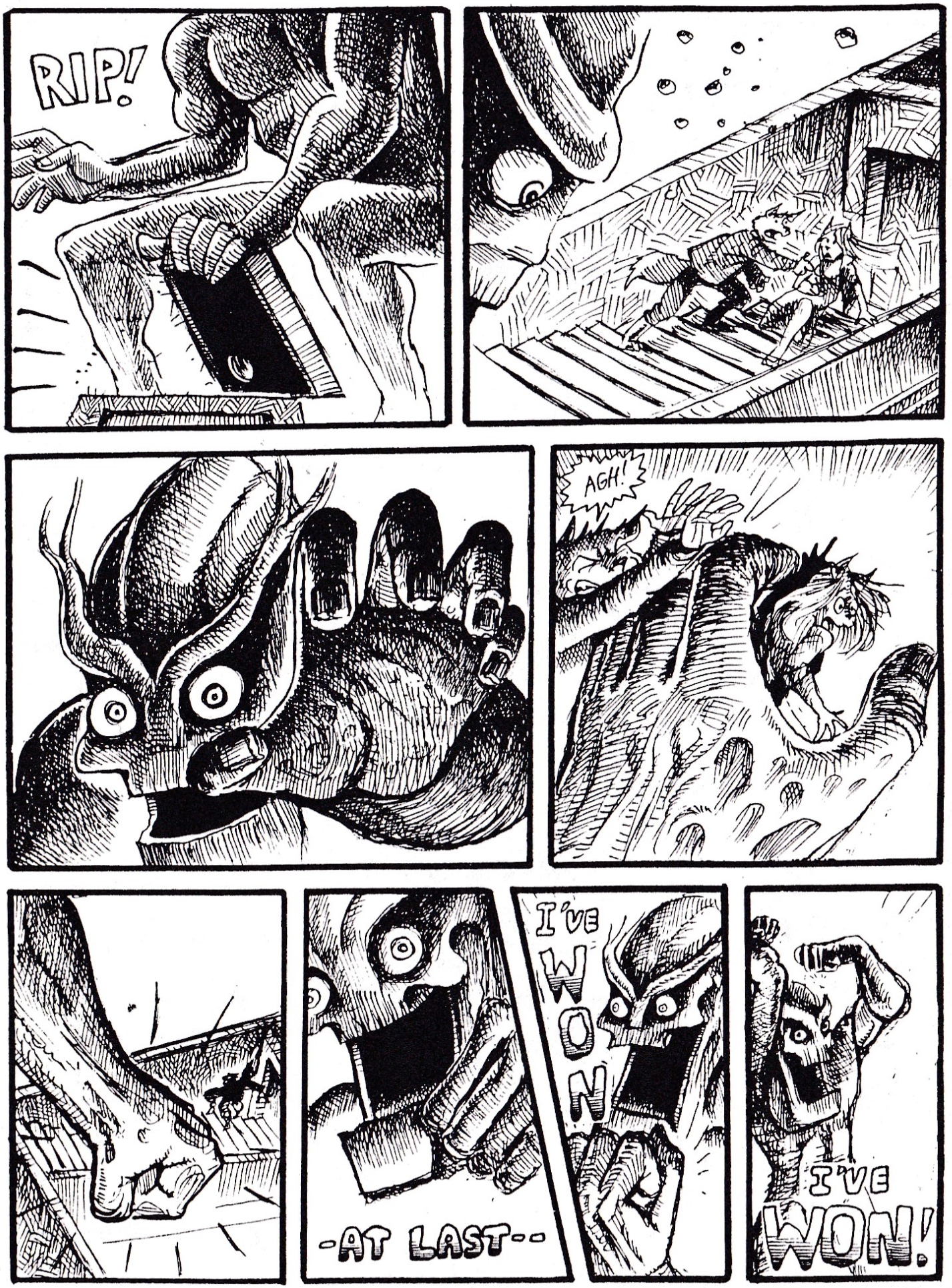
-CONCENTRATE, CATHERINE...

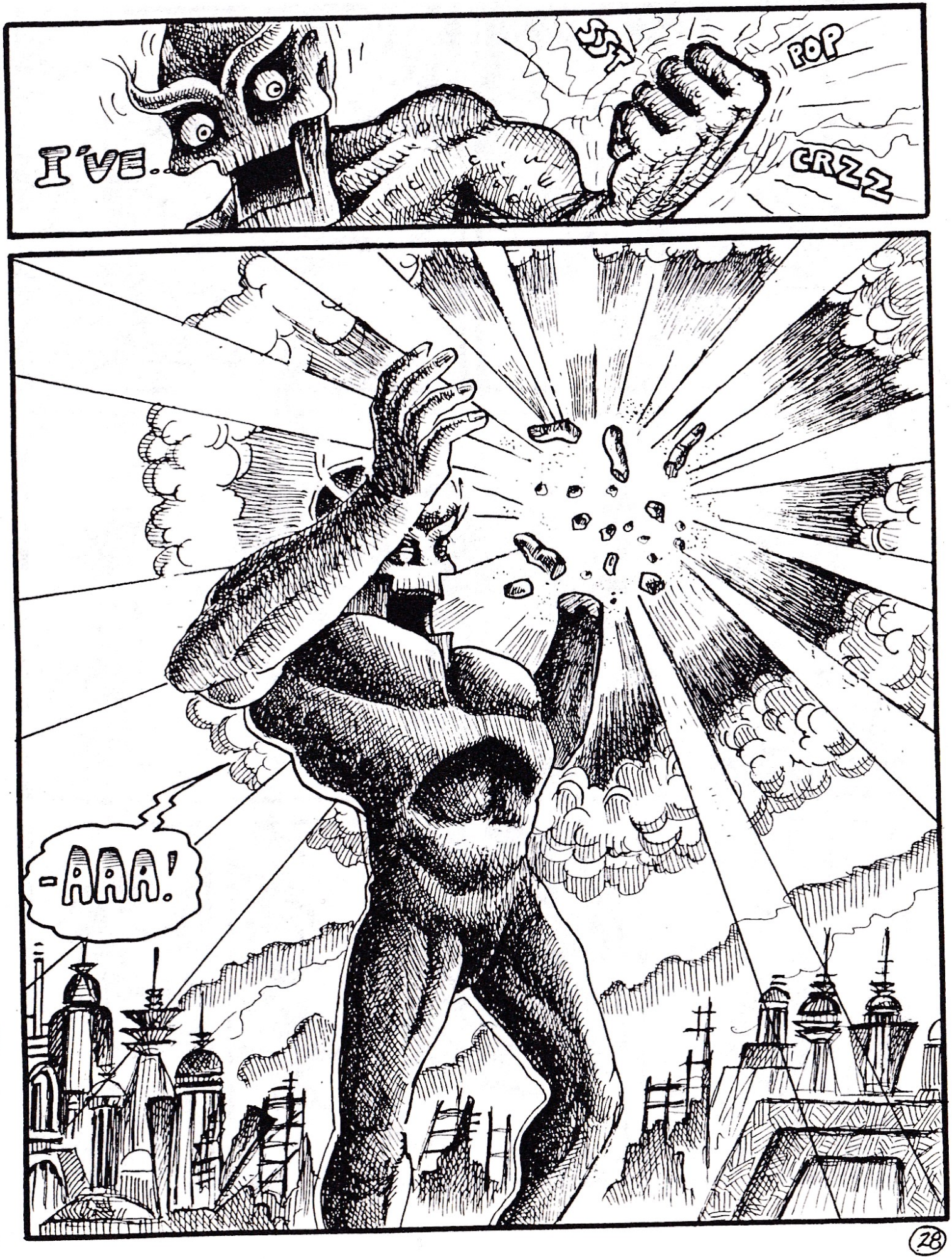
-IT IS YOU WHO ARE STRONGER--
BASH!
WHRAM!

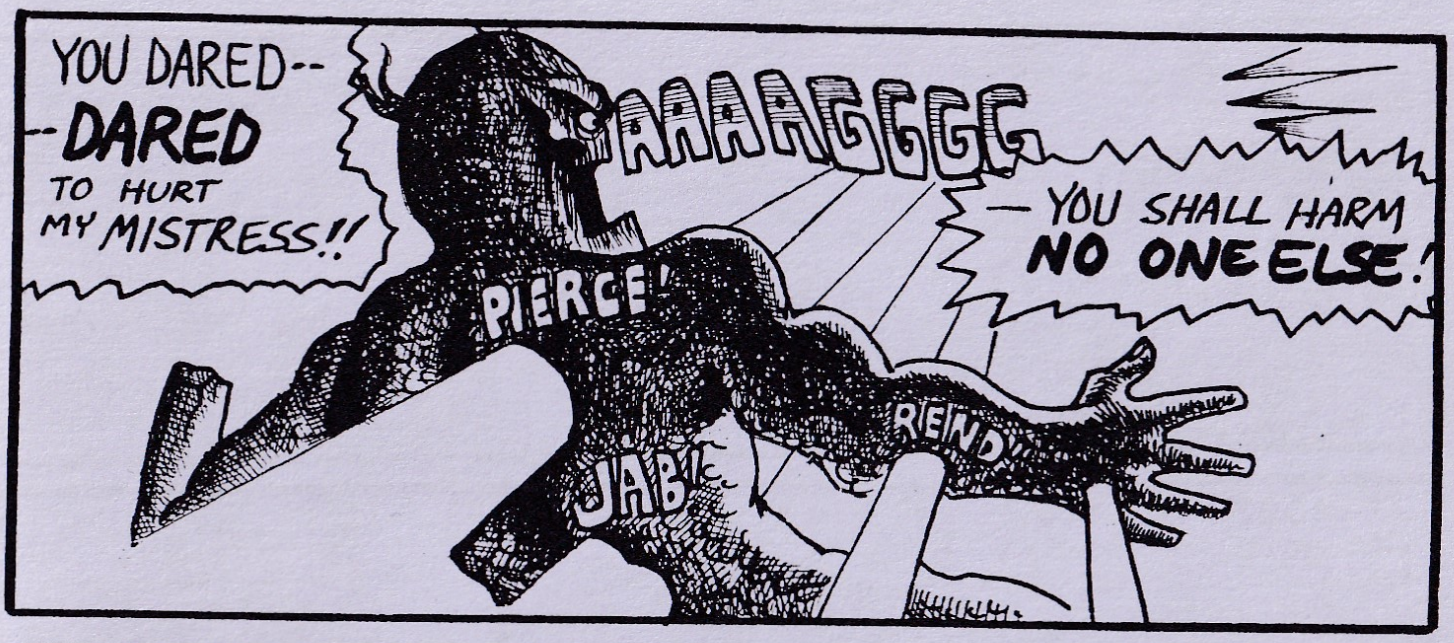

-YOUR MIGHT IS TOO POWERFUL TO DENY--
-NOTHING CAN STOP YOU
WRENCH!

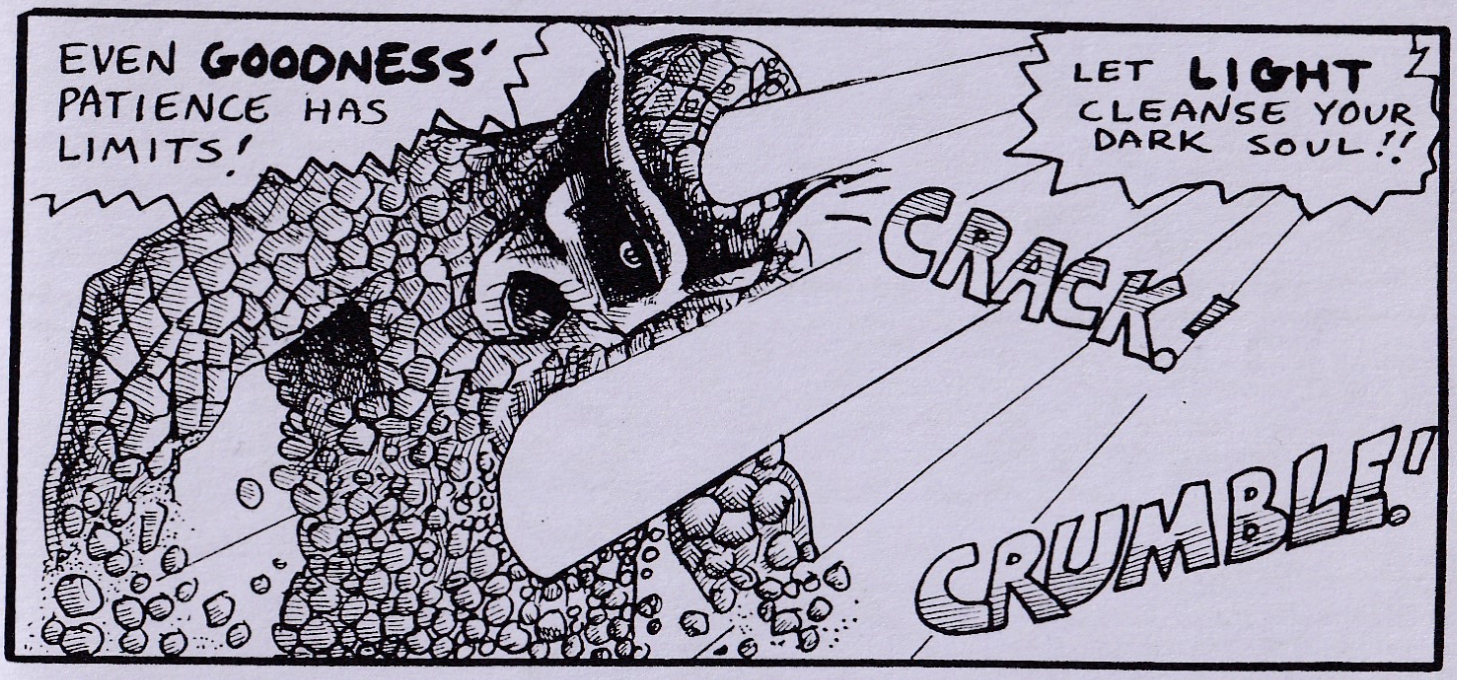
SO, CONCENTRATE-- SEARCH THE CITY, CATHERINE...

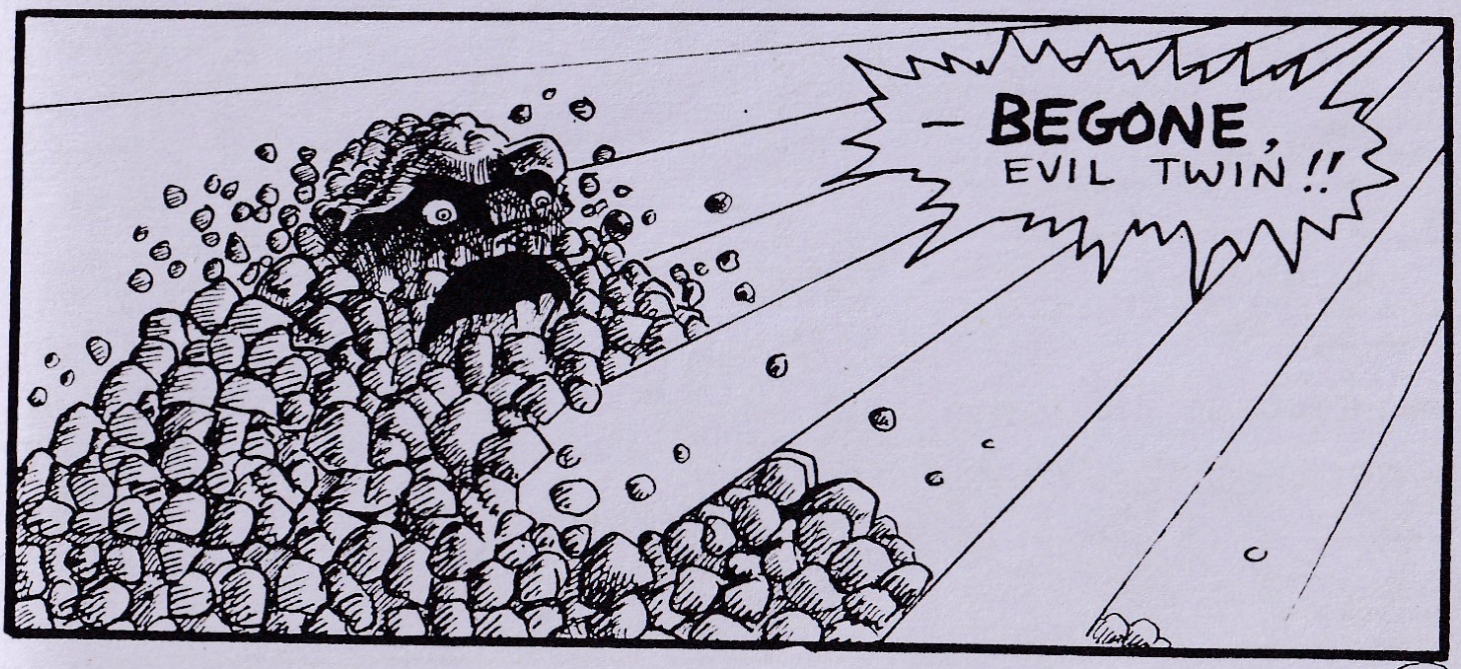

YOU MUST FIND HER...
CRUNCH!
...LEAVE NOTHING UNTOUCHED --
-- YOU MUST FIND...
CRASH
BROOM!
...YOUR MOTHER --
ULP!
MARIANA -- IT'S COMING RIGHT FOR US!
DOWN THE STAIRS -- QUICKLY--!!

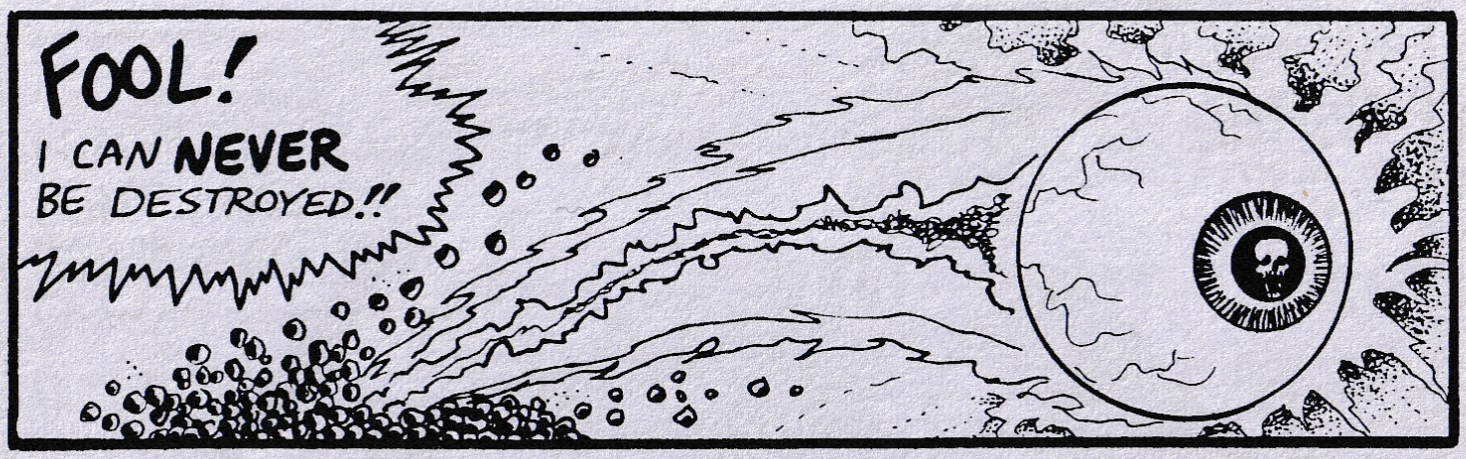

RIP!
AGH!
-AT LAST--
I'VE WON
I'VE WON!

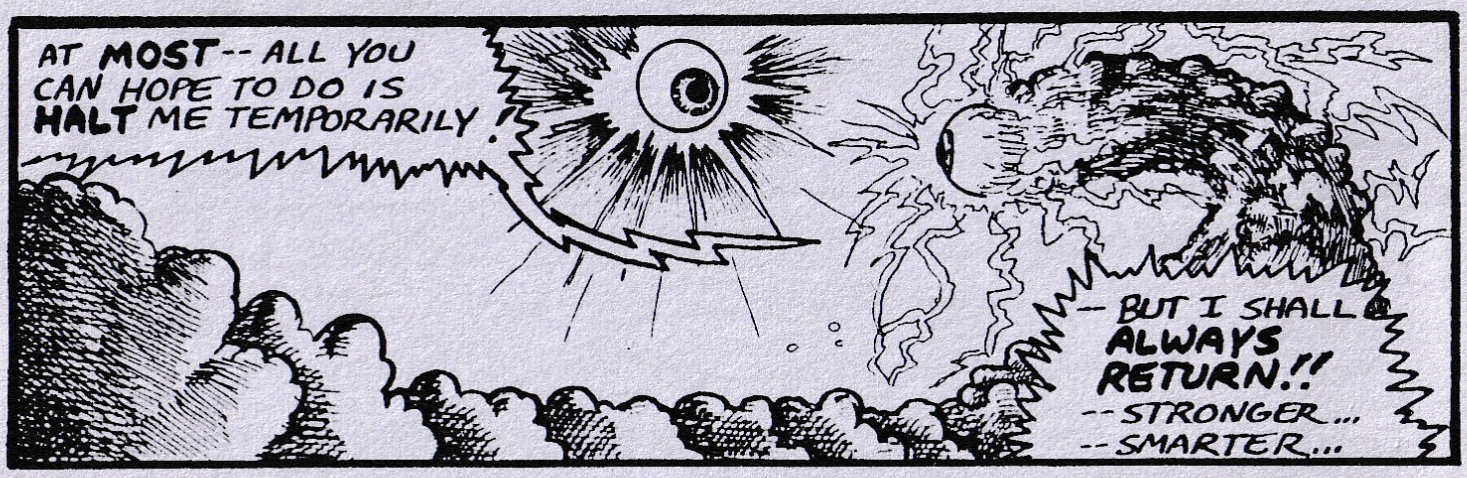

I'VE..
SLT
POP
CRZZ
-AAA!

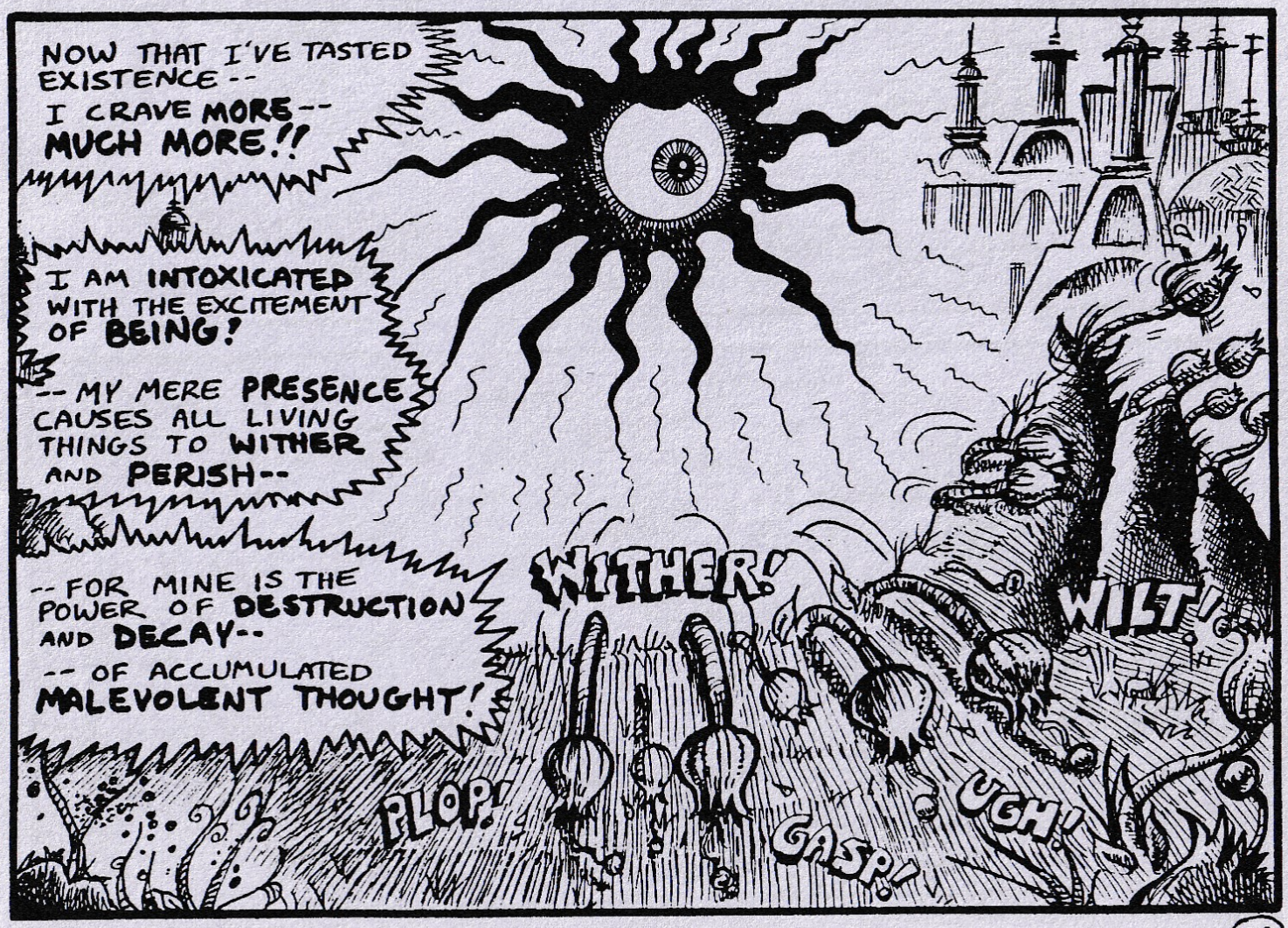

YOU DARED--
--DARED TO HURT MY MISTRESS!!
AAAAAGGGG
PIERCE!
JABS!
REND!
—YOU SHALL HARM NO ONE ELSE!

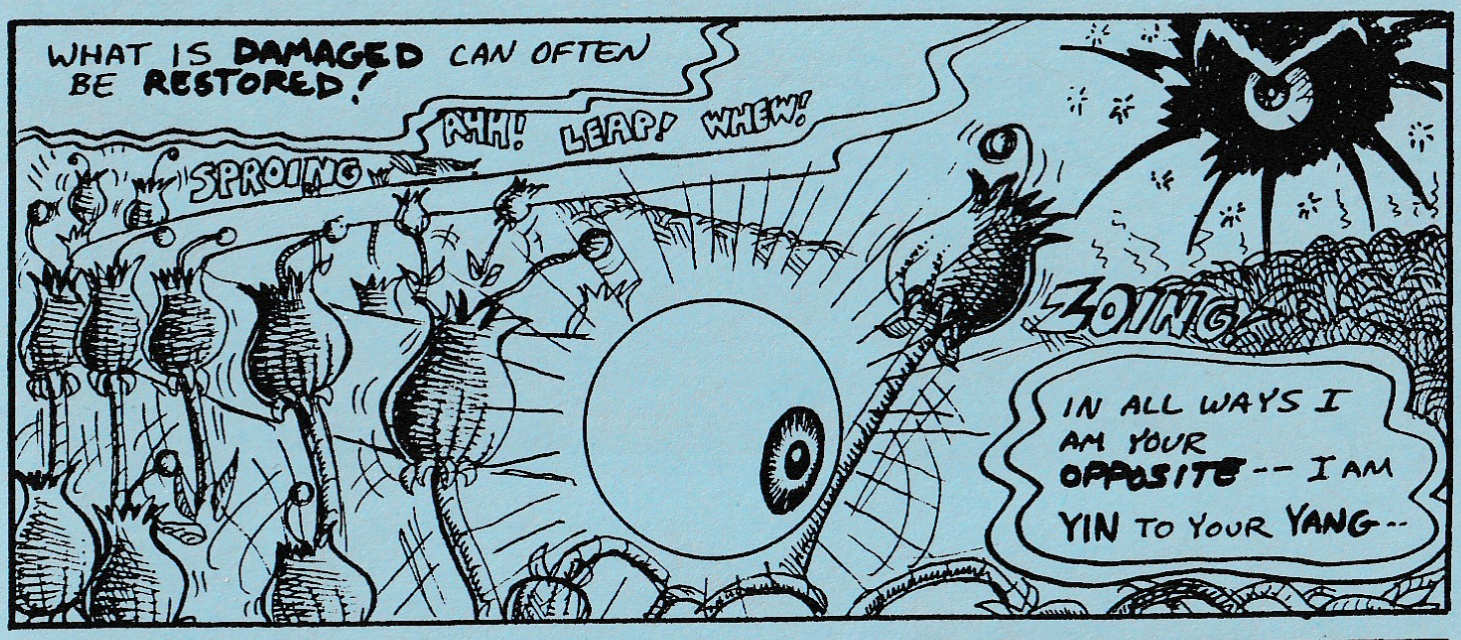

EVEN GOODNESS' PATIENCE HAS LIMITS!
LET LIGHT CLEANSE YOUR DARK SOUL!!
CRACK!
CRUMBLE!

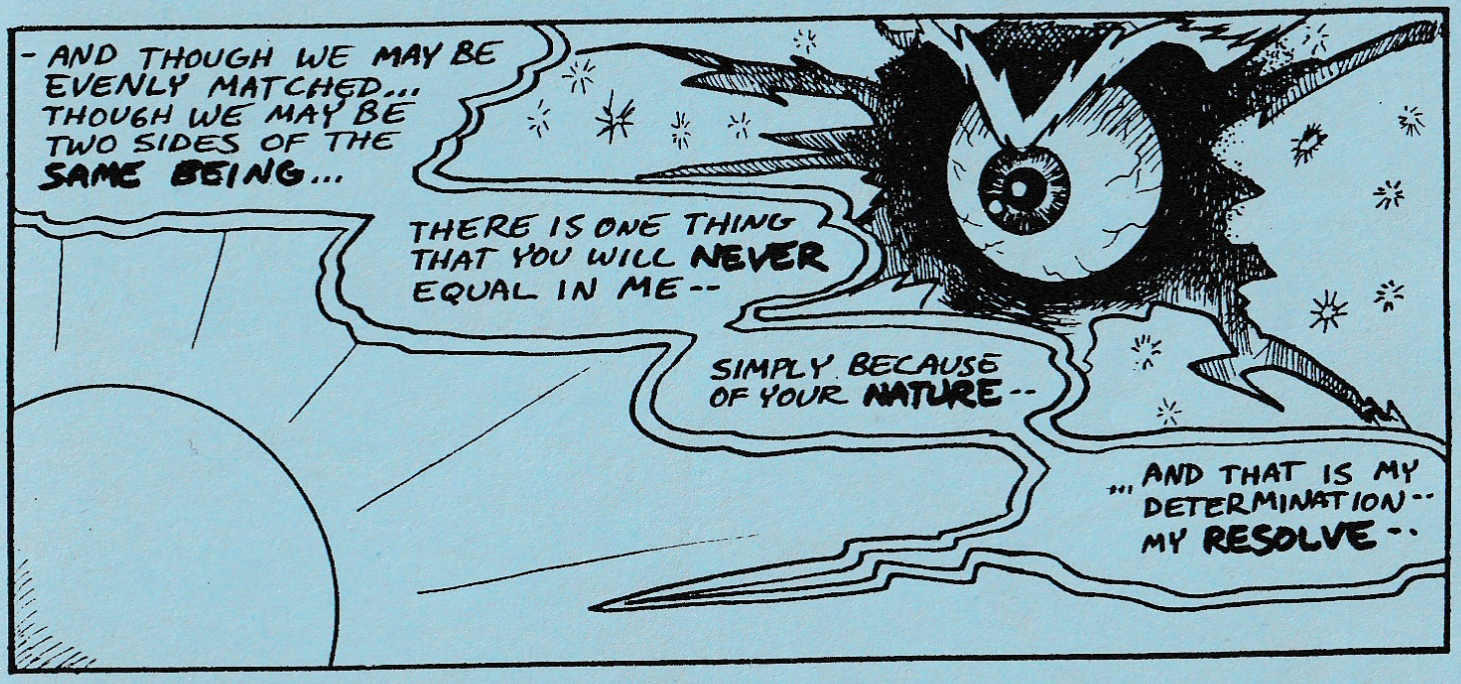

—BEGONE, EVIL TWIN!!

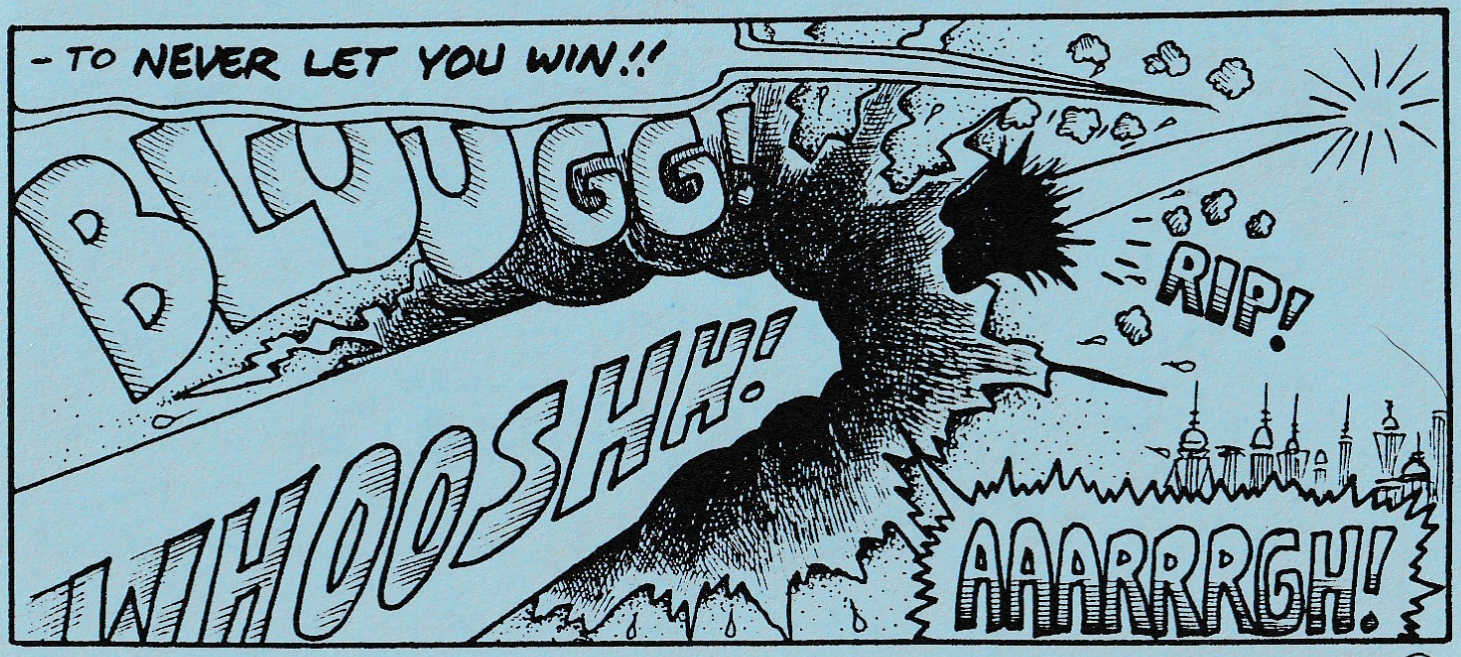

FOOL!
I CAN NEVER BE DESTROYED!!


AT MOST -- ALL YOU CAN HOPE TO DO IS HALT ME TEMPORARILY!
-- BUT I SHALL ALWAYS RETURN!!
-- STRONGER...
-- SMARTER...


NOW THAT I'VE TASTED EXISTENCE -- I CRAVE MORE -- MUCH MORE!!
I AM INTOXICATED WITH THE EXCITEMENT OF BEING!
-- MY MERE PRESENCE CAUSES ALL LIVING THINGS TO WITHER AND PERISH --
-- FOR MINE IS THE POWER OF DESTRUCTION AND DECAY --
-- OF ACCUMULATED MALEVOLENT THOUGHT!
WITHER!
WILT!
PLOP!
GASP!
UGH!


WHAT IS DAMAGED CAN OFTEN BE RESTORED!
SPROING
AHH! LEAP! WHEW!
ZOING
IN ALL WAYS I AM YOUR OPPOSITE -- I AM YIN TO YOUR YANG --

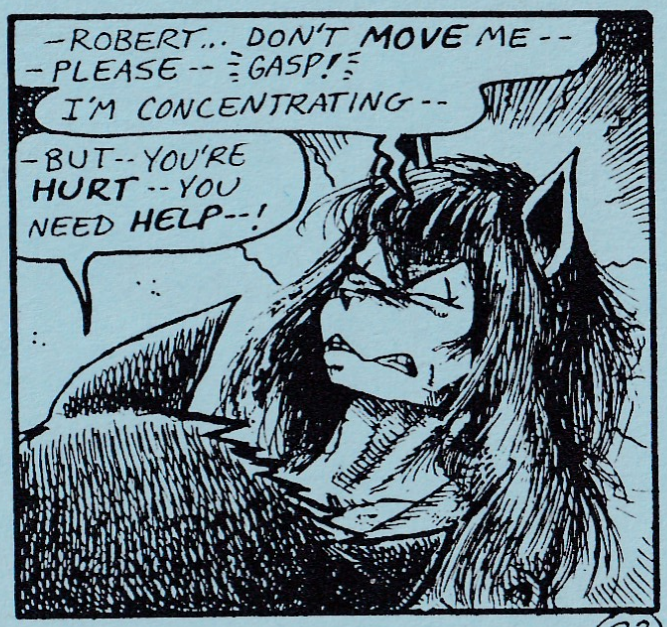

- AND THOUGH WE MAY BE EVENLY MATCHED... THOUGH WE MAY BE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME BEING...
THERE IS ONE THING THAT YOU WILL NEVER EQUAL IN ME --
SIMPLY BECAUSE OF YOUR NATURE --
... AND THAT IS MY DETERMINATION -- MY RESOLVE --

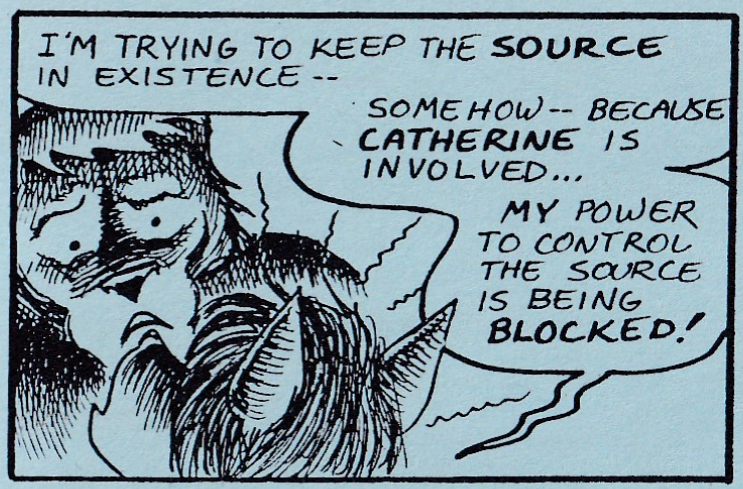

- TO NEVER LET YOU WIN!!
BLUGG!
WHOOSHH!
RIP!
AAARRRGH!

GASP! COUGH!
— MARIANA!
COFF! COFF!!

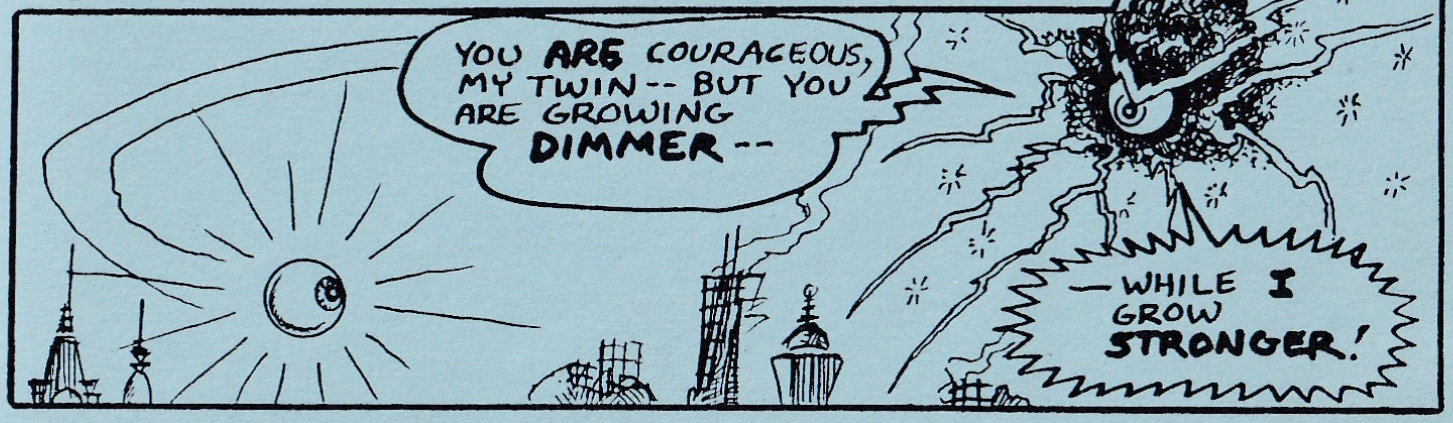
MARIANA!

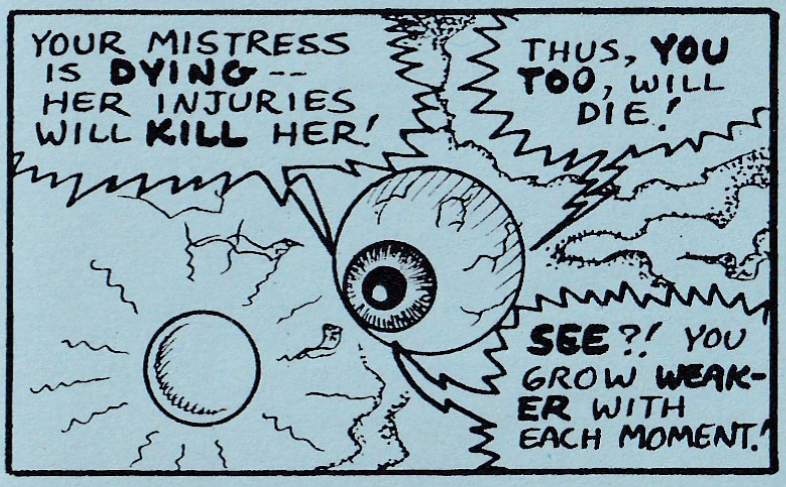
N-NO...
—MARIANA!!

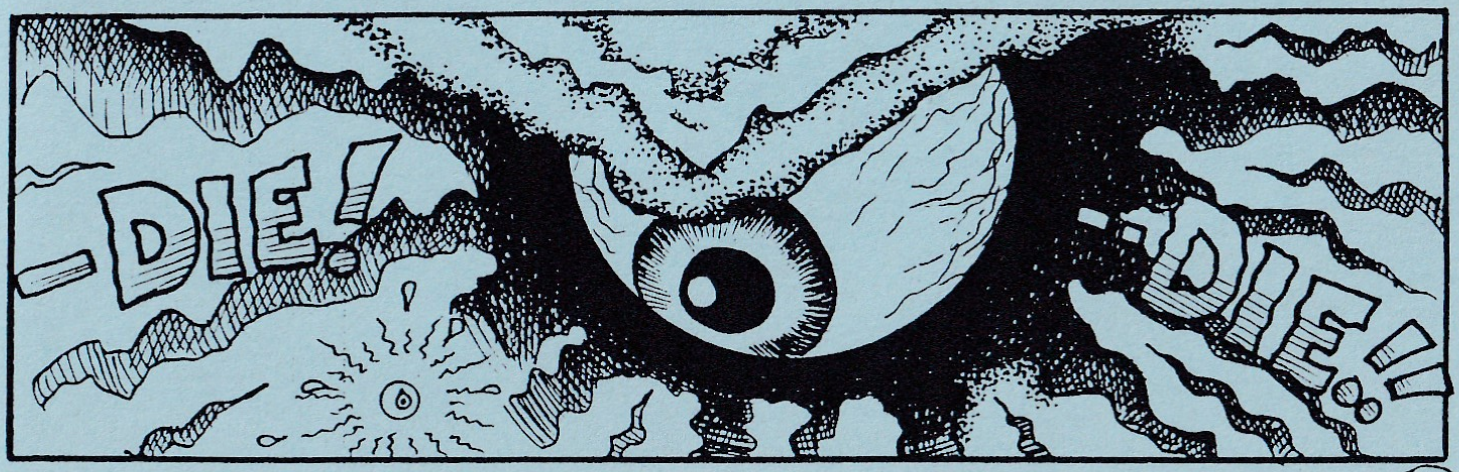

—ROBERT... DON'T MOVE ME -- —PLEASE -- GASP! I'M CONCENTRATING --
—BUT -- YOU'RE HURT -- YOU NEED HELP --!



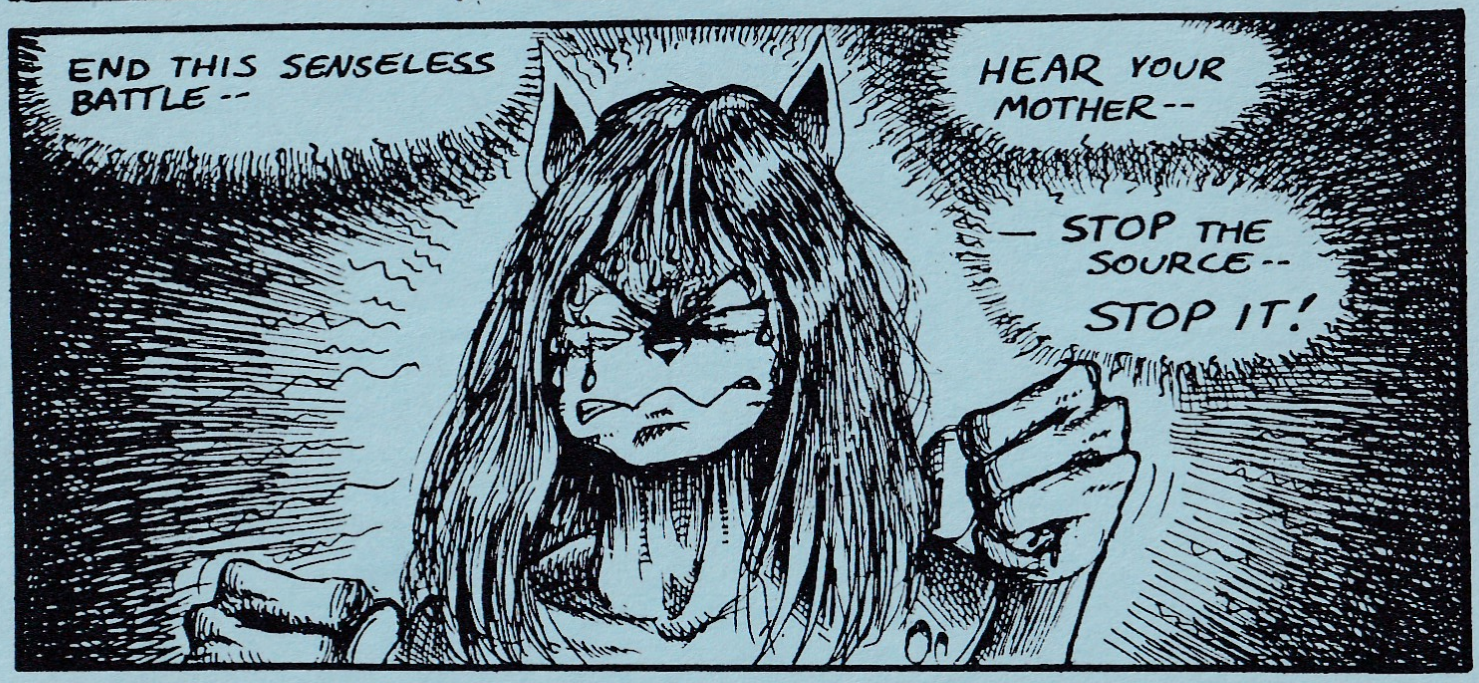
"BUT -- THE SOURCE IS OUR ONLY HOPE -- UNLESS..."

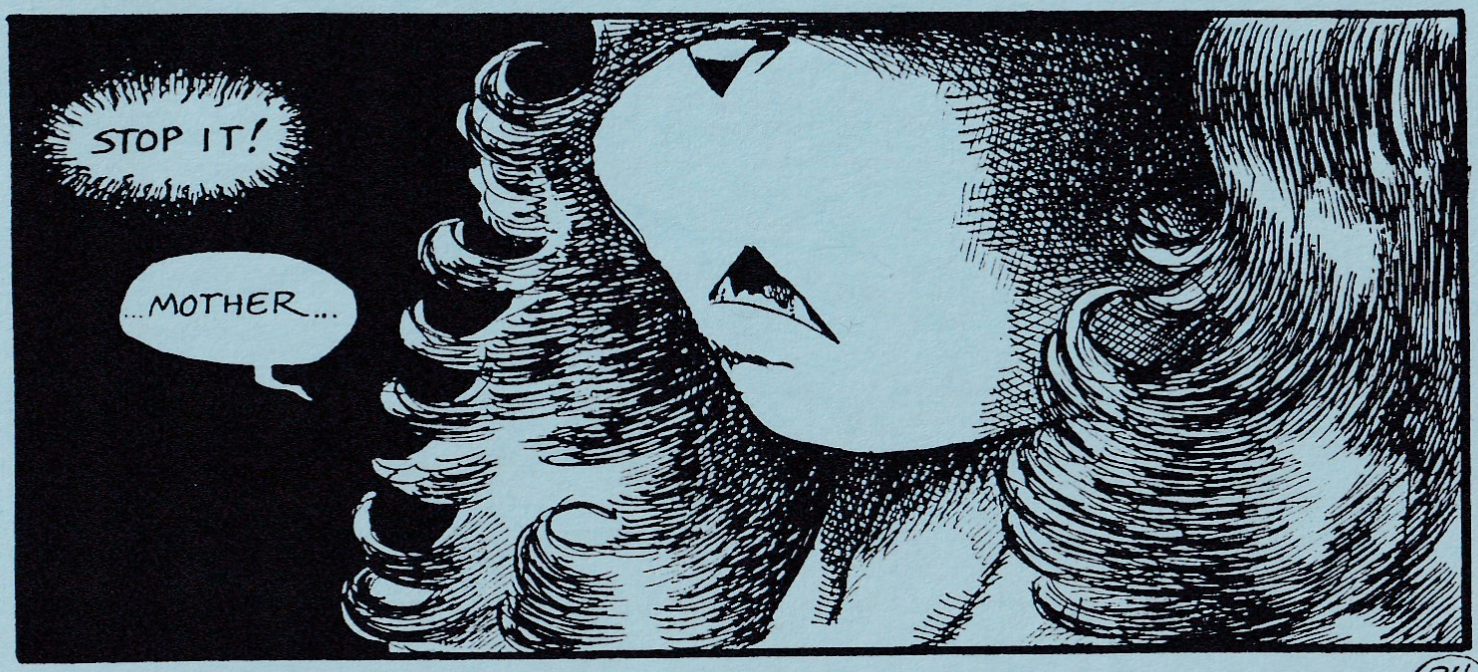


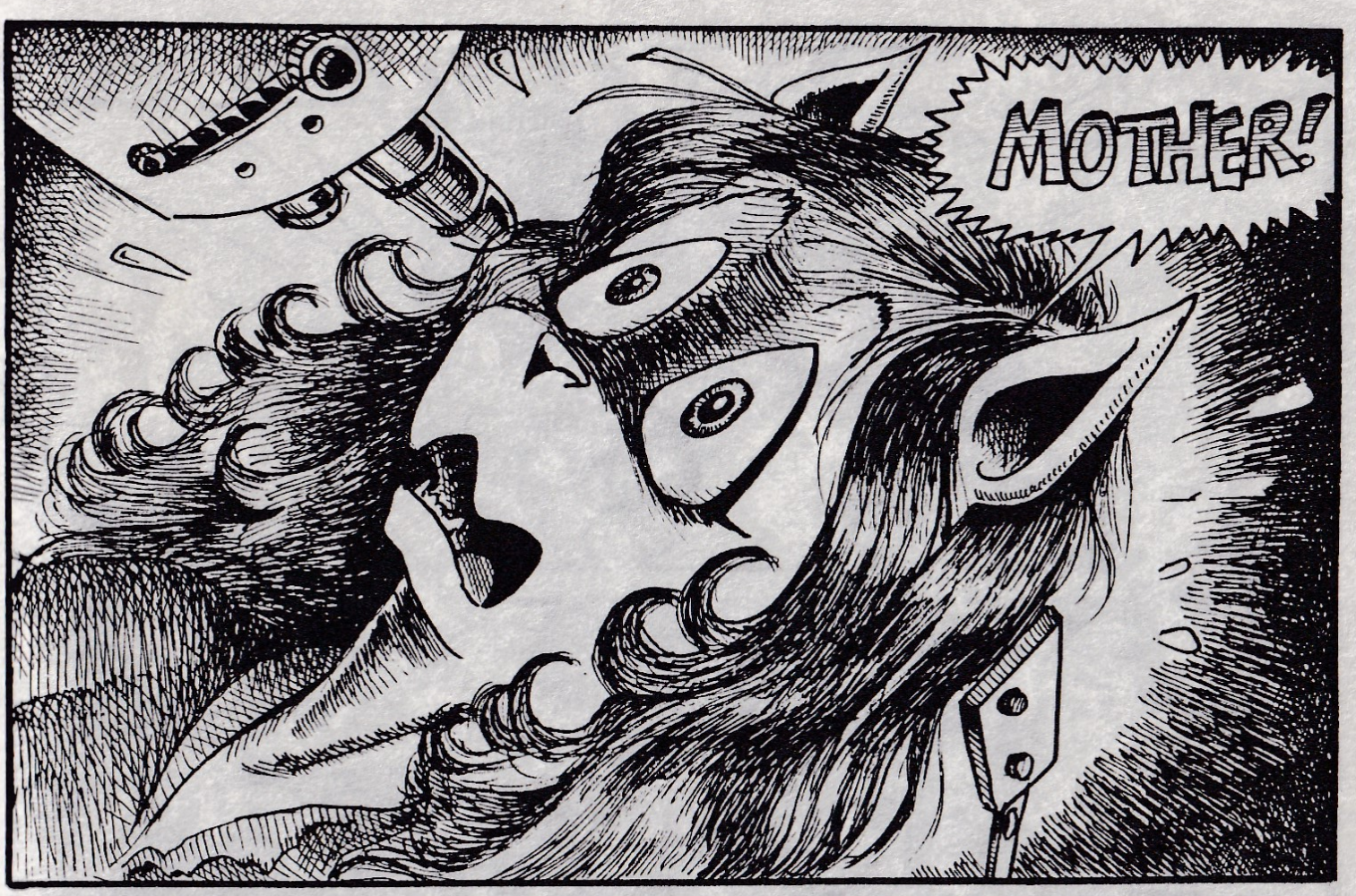


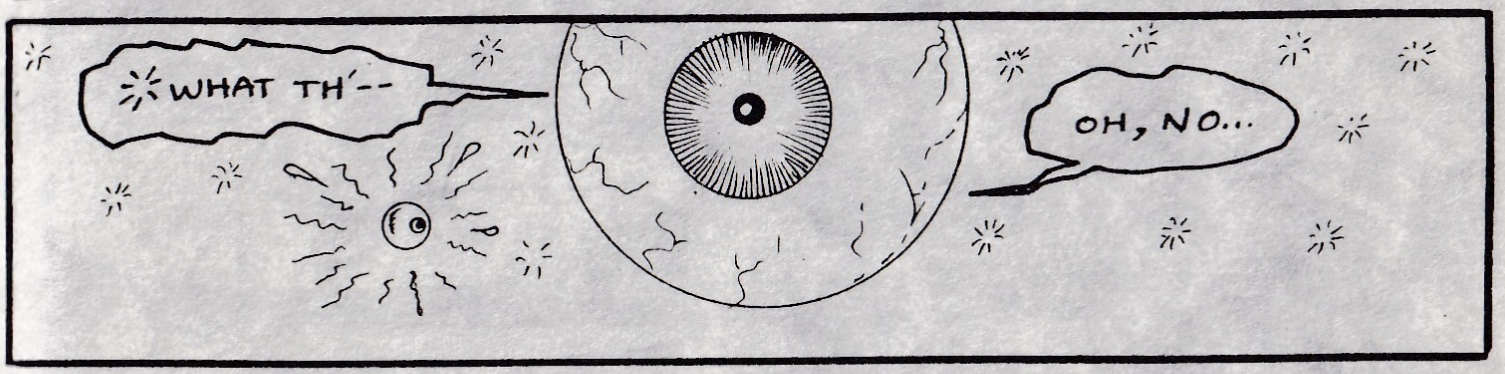


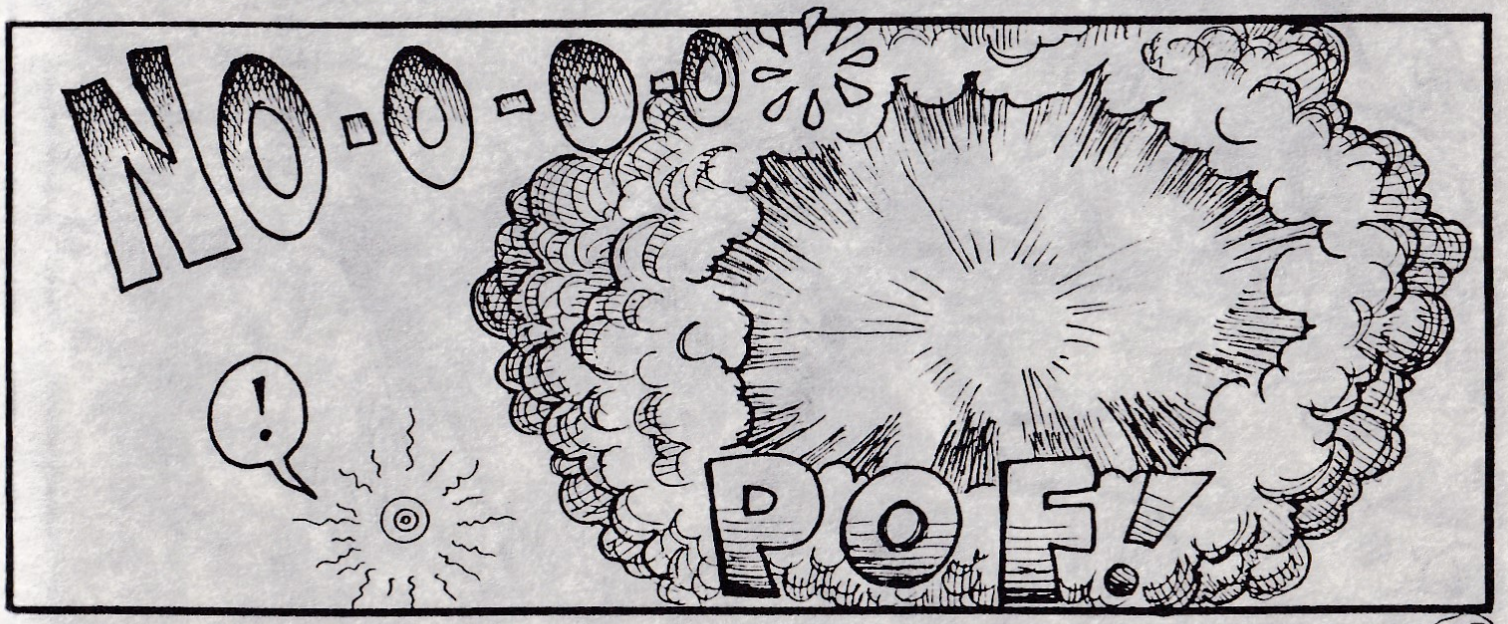
- OW!!
I-I CAN'T HOLD IT ANYMORE - CASP
I'VE ONLY ENOUGH STRENGTH TO TRY ONE MORE THING-- -- IF ONLY ZANOMANON IS TOO DISTRACTED TO NOTICE--
CATHERINE--
CATHERINE-- HEAR ME!

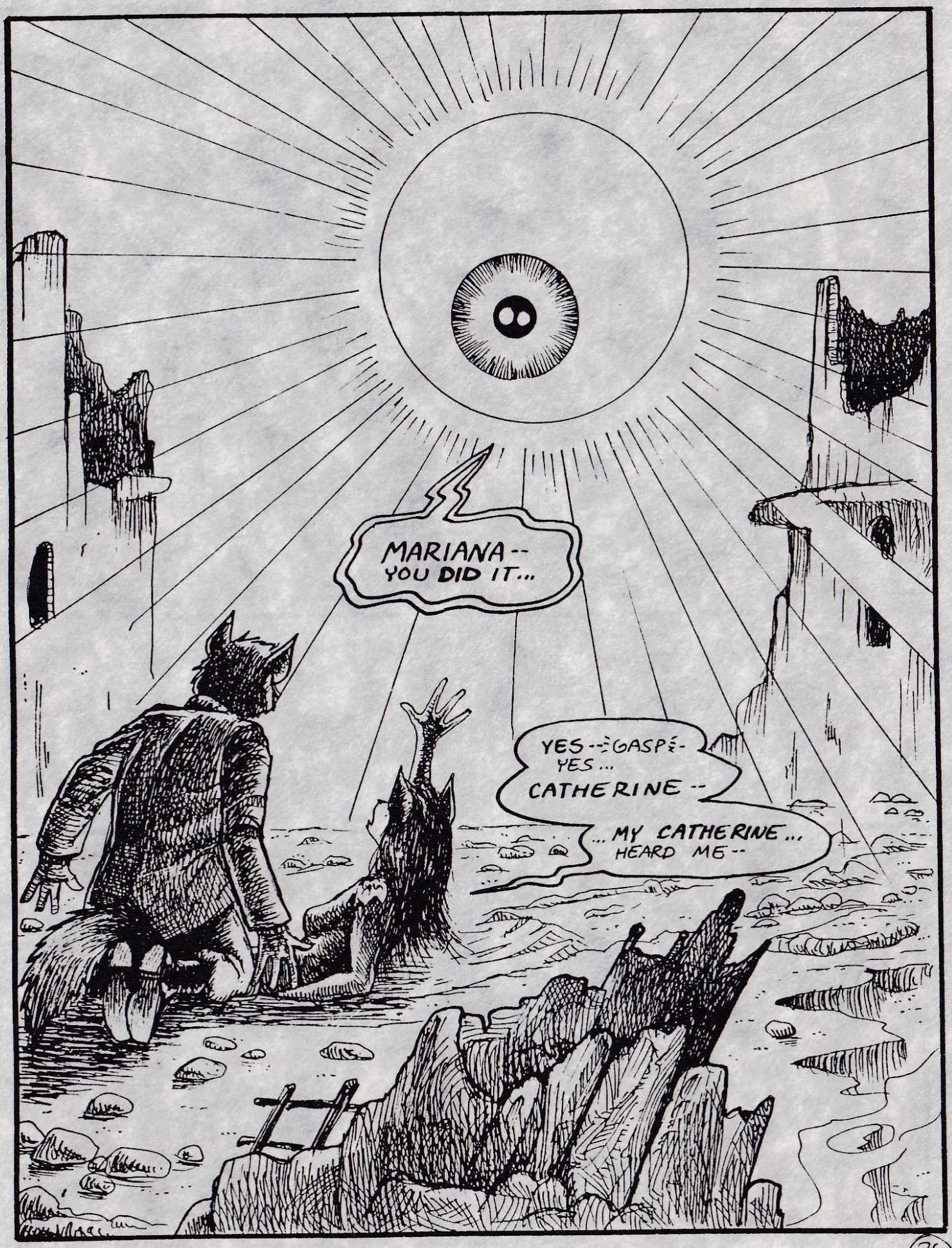

END THIS SENSELESS BATTLE--
HEAR YOUR MOTHER--
— STOP THE SOURCE--
STOP IT!

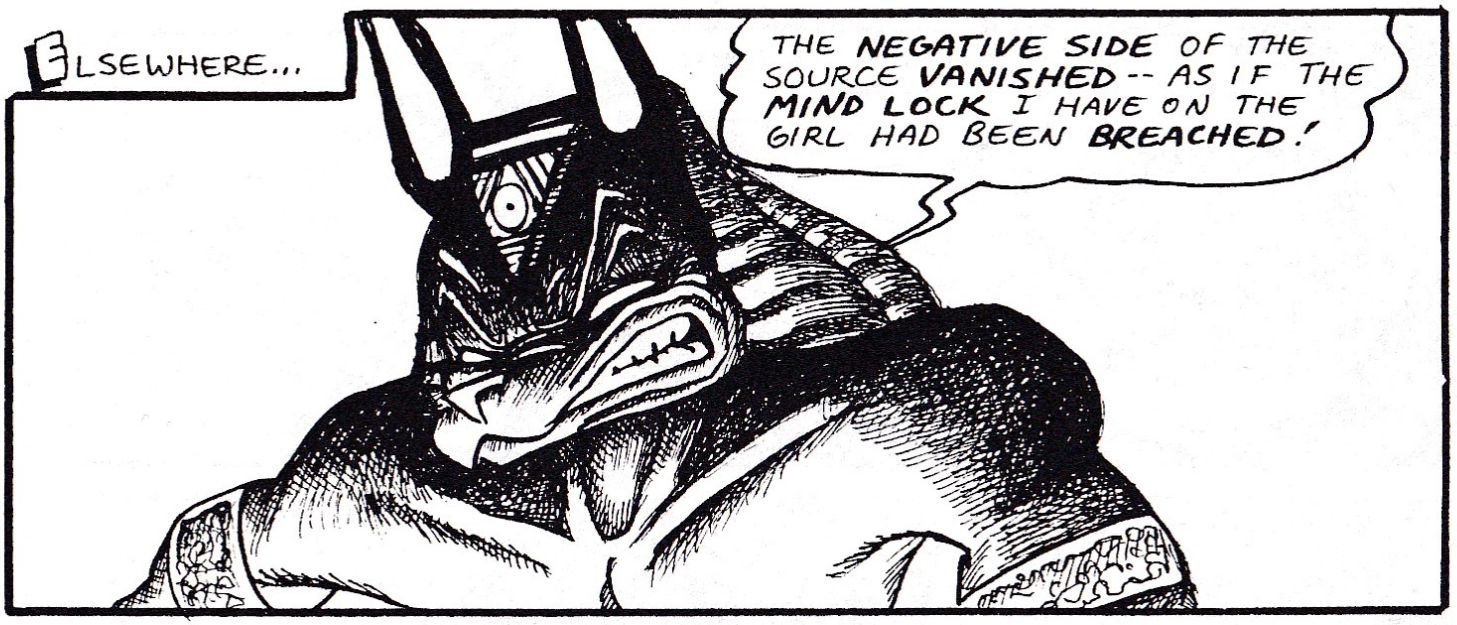

STOP IT!
...MOTHER...


MOTHER!

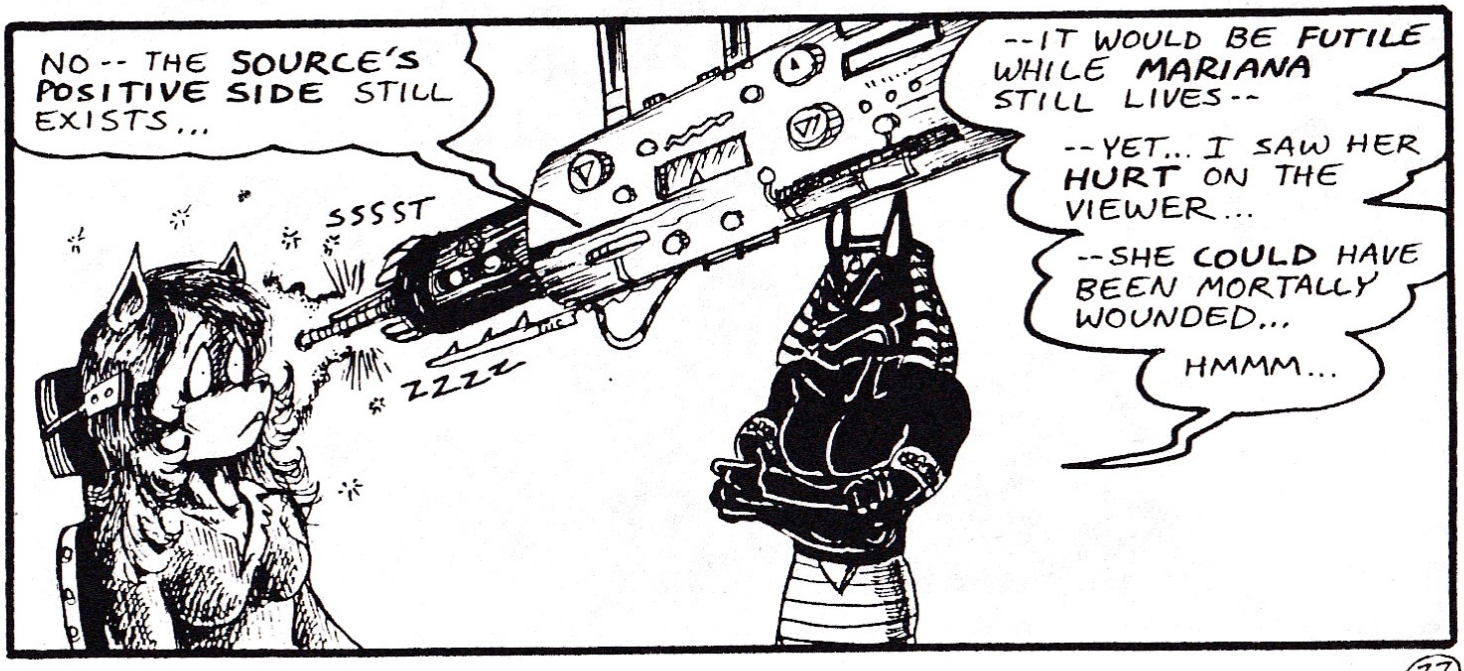

WHAT TH'--
OH, NO...

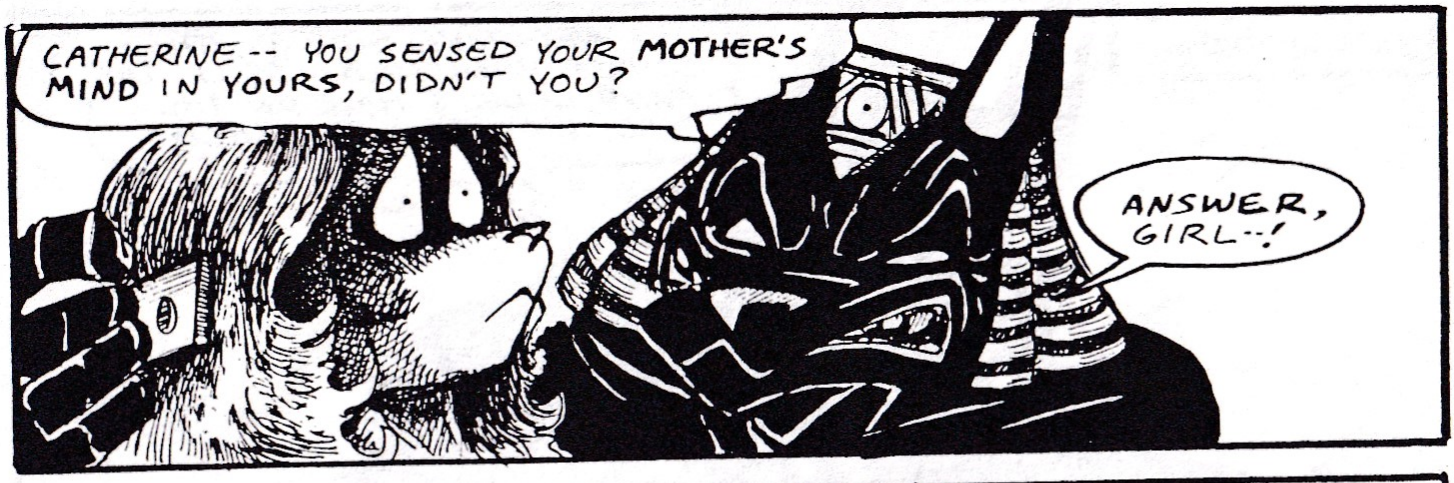

NO-O-O-O
!
POF!


MARIANA -- YOU DID IT...
YES --:GASP:- YES... CATHERINE --
... MY CATHERINE... HEARD ME --

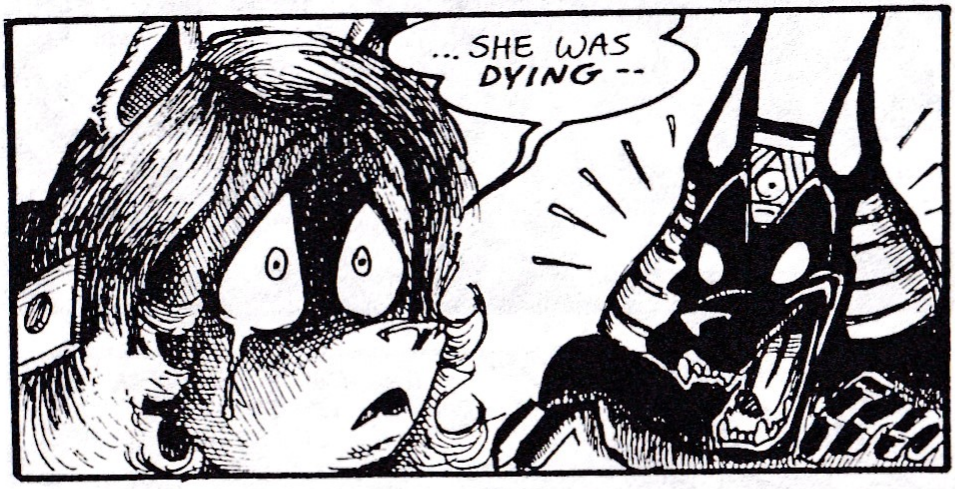

ELSEWHERE...
THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE SOURCE VANISHED -- AS IF THE MIND LOCK I HAVE ON THE GIRL HAD BEEN BREACHED!

--THE PSYCHIC LINK WITH HER MOTHER MUST BE STRONG FOR HER TO BE ABLE TO BREAK MY DOMINATOR'S POWER--!
SHALL OUR ARMIES ATTACK NOW, SIRE?

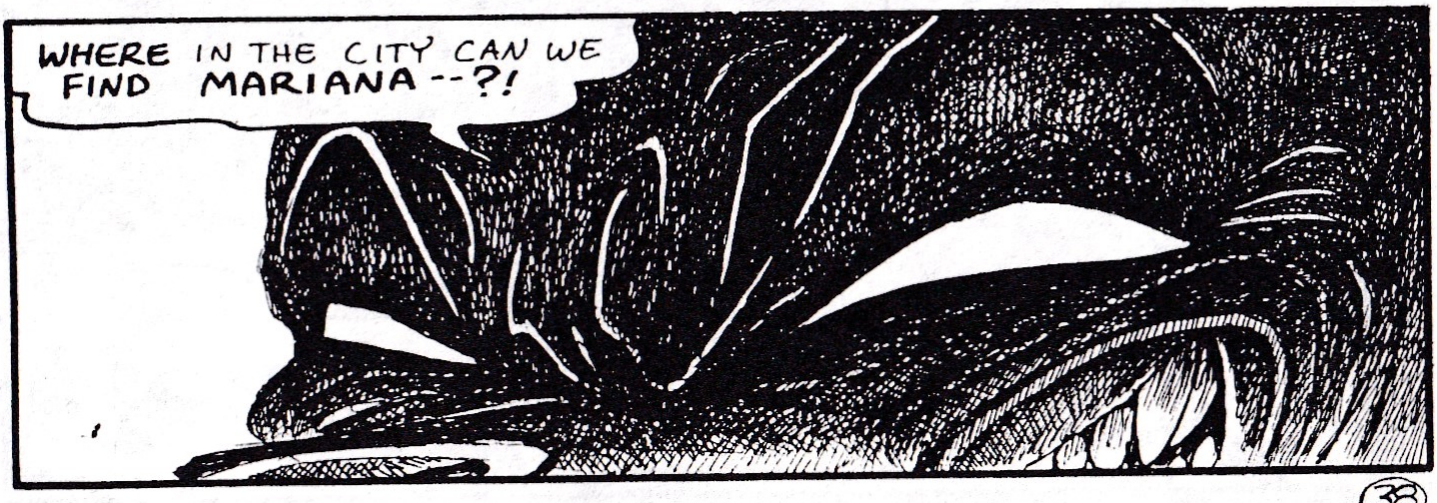

NO -- THE SOURCE'S POSITIVE SIDE STILL EXISTS...
SSSST
ZZZZ
--IT WOULD BE FUTILE WHILE MARIANA STILL LIVES--
--YET... I SAW HER HURT ON THE VIEWER...
--SHE COULD HAVE BEEN MORTALLY WOUNDED...
HMMM...

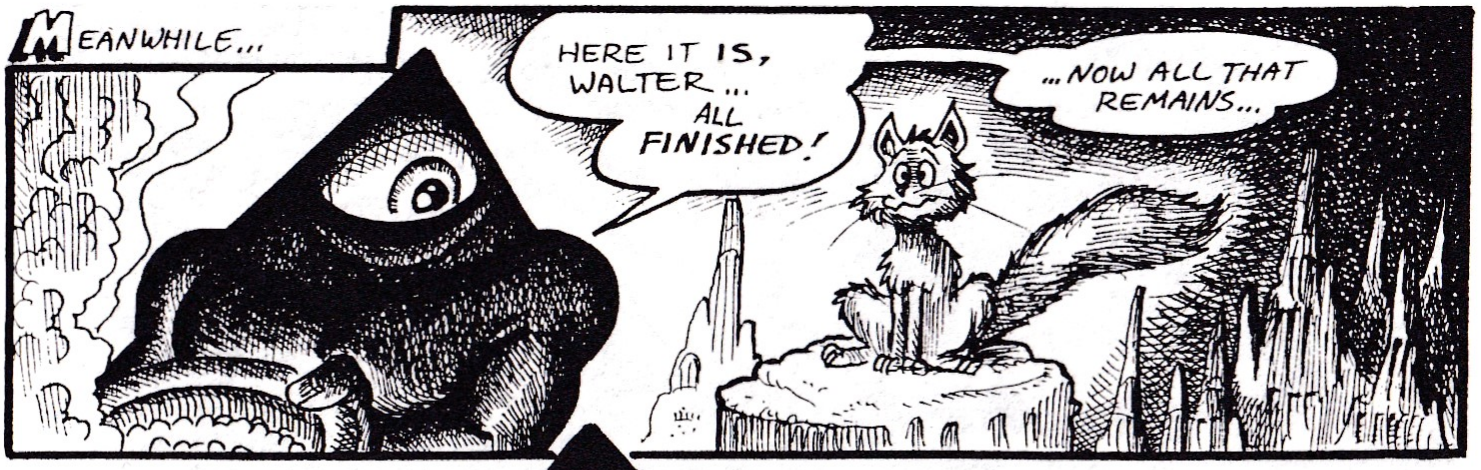

CATHERINE -- YOU SENSED YOUR MOTHER'S MIND IN YOURS, DIDN'T YOU?
ANSWER, GIRL--!

I STILL CONTROL YOU, CATHERINE -- YOU MUST ANSWER ME--!
WHEN YOU TOUCHED MINDS -- WAS YOUR MOTHER... INJURED--?
— WAS SHE MORTALLY WOUNDED?


...SHE WAS DYING --

THEN-- LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, CATHERINE...
TELL ME--


WHERE IN THE CITY CAN WE FIND MARIANA --?!


MEANWHILE...
HERE IT IS, WALTER... ALL FINISHED!
...NOW ALL THAT REMAINS...

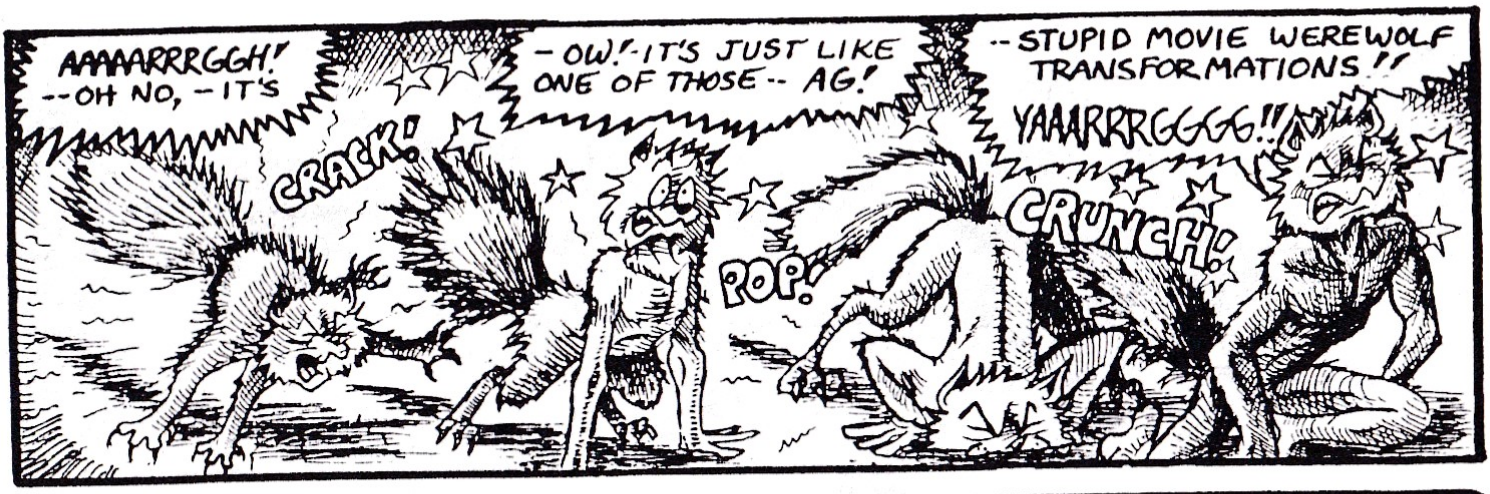
...IS FOR YOU TO DRINK IT!
DRINK THAT STUFF?! YOU'RE JOKING--! --I ASSUMED I'D HAVE TO BATHE IN IT--

OH, NO... YOU'VE GOT TO DRINK IT-- OR YOU'LL NEVER REGAIN YOUR TRUE FORM--!

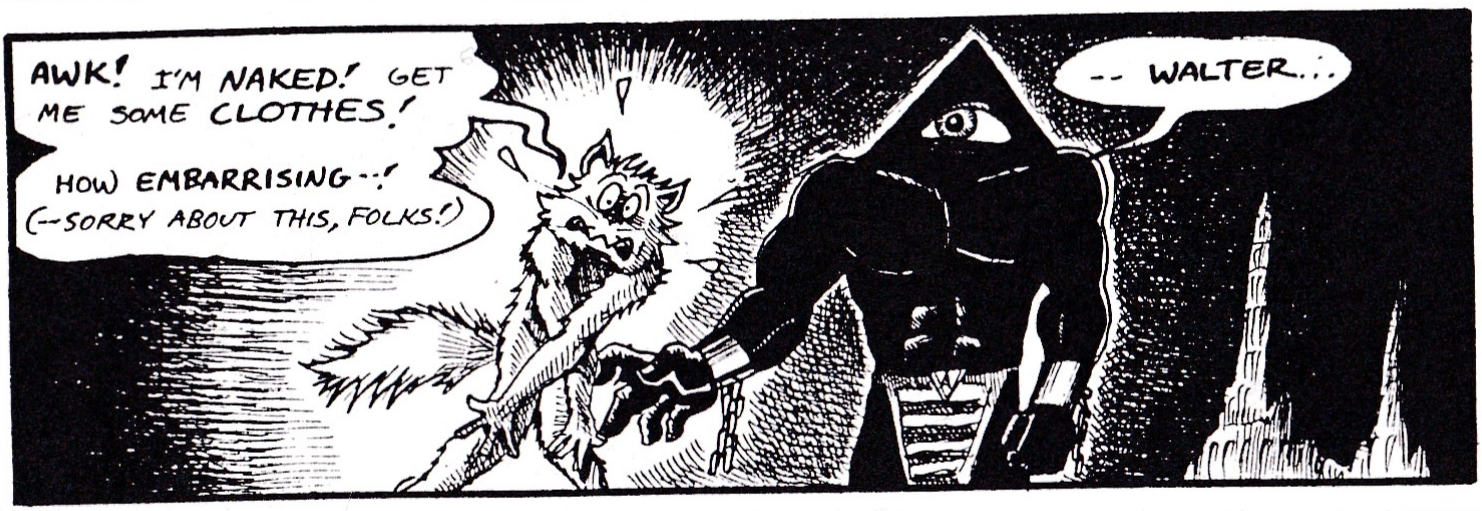
SNIF SNIF... OH, ICK!

(SIGH) PLEASE, WALTER! WE NEED TO HURRY!
OK! OK!
LAPLAP LAPLAP

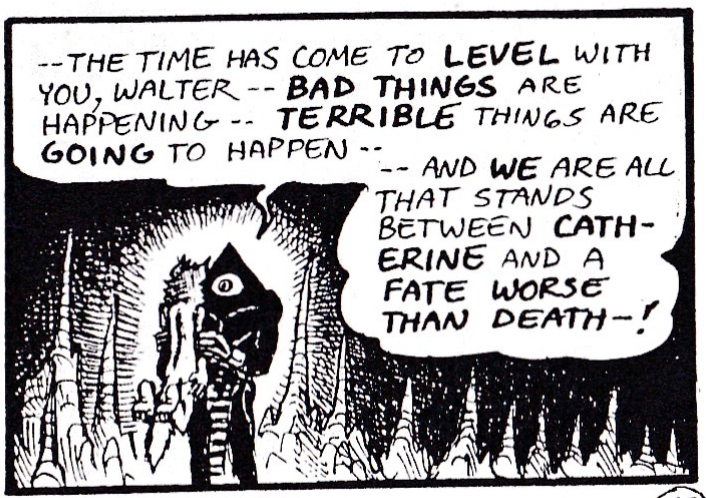
URRGH
SQUEE!
GURG
ARG! RETCH!
PITZ! POP!
FUME!
NG!
GAG!
UUGHH!
GASP! CHOKE!
PTUI! PTUI!
GARG

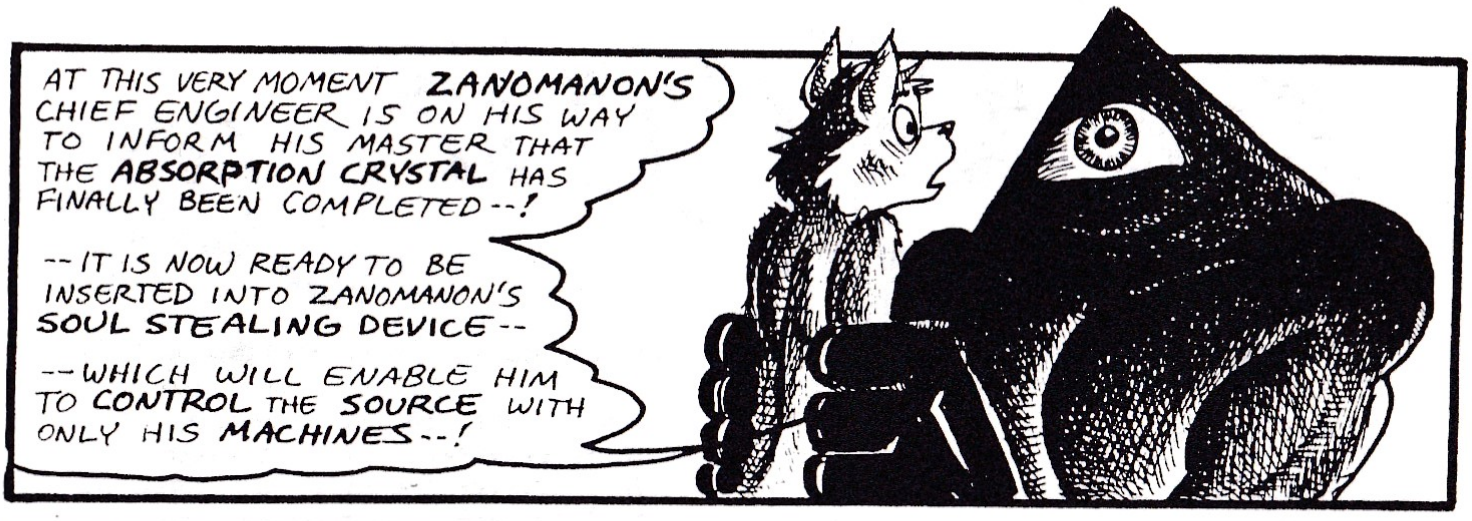

AAAAARRRGGH! --OH NO, -IT'S
CRACK!
-OW!-IT'S JUST LIKE ONE OF THOSE-- AG!
POP!
--STUPID MOVIE WEREWOLF TRANSFORMATIONS!!
YAAARRRGGGG!!
CRUNCH!

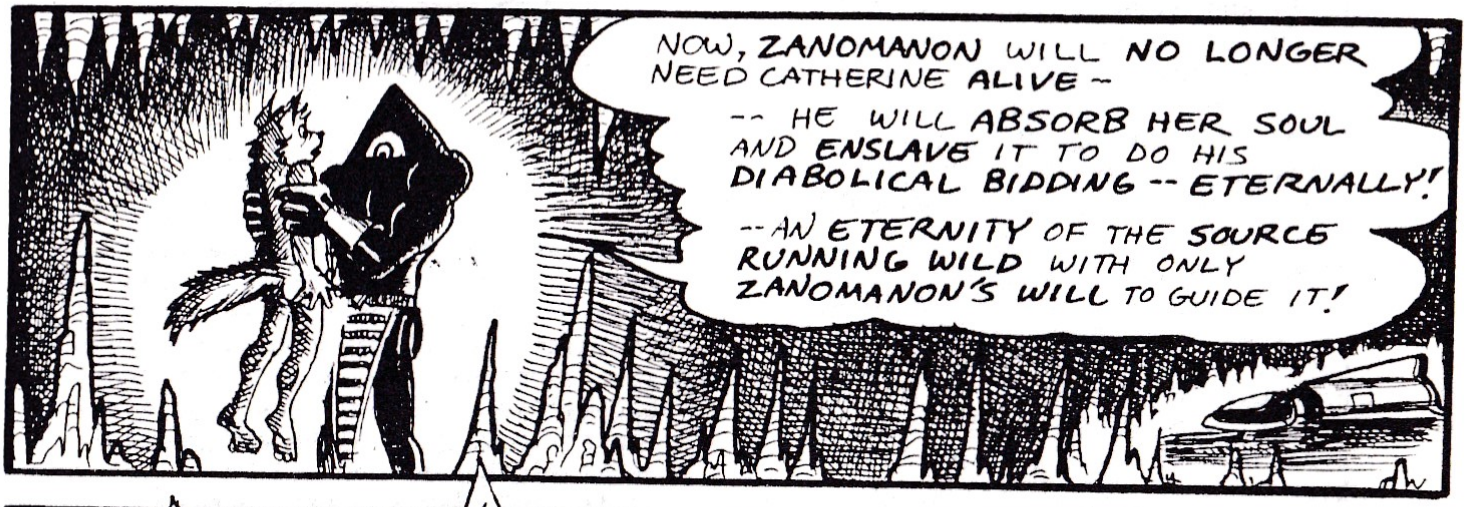
I'M MYSELF AGAIN--! I'M ME!
YES, WALTER...

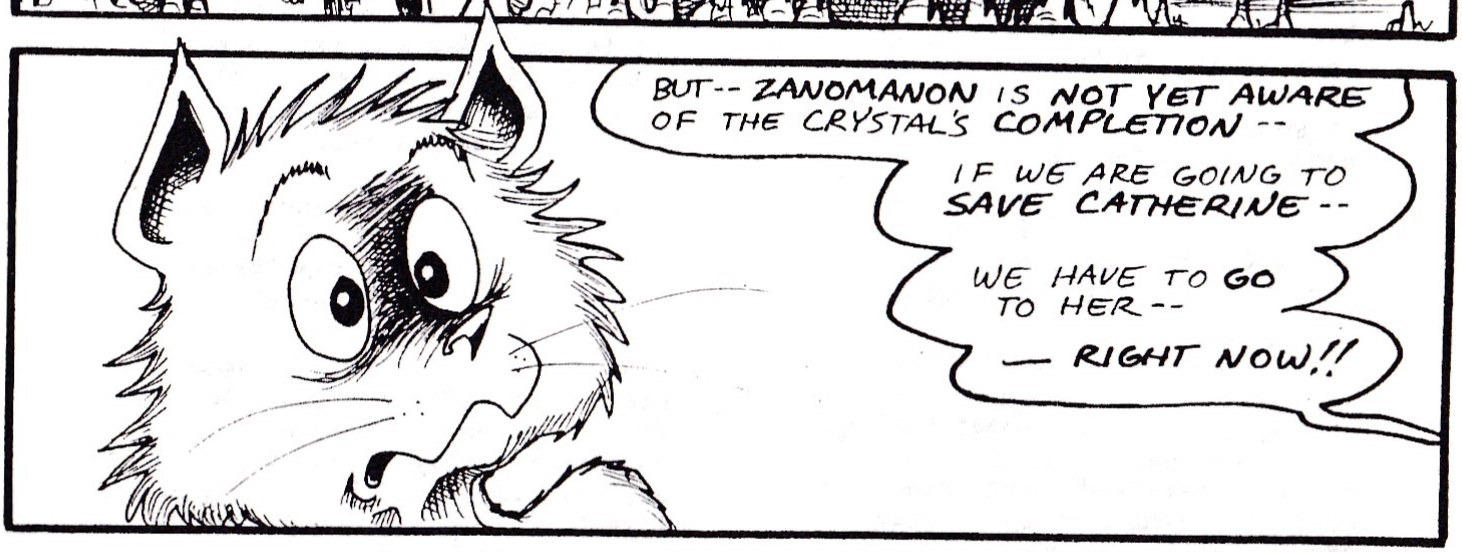

AWK! I'M NAKED! GET ME SOME CLOTHES!
HOW EMBARRISING--! (--SORRY ABOUT THIS, FOLKS!)
-- WALTER...

I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME...


--THE TIME HAS COME TO LEVEL WITH YOU, WALTER -- BAD THINGS ARE HAPPENING -- TERRIBLE THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN --
-- AND WE ARE ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN CATHERINE AND A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH--!







— TO BE HEROICALLY CONTINUED...

Wow! Time again for another sampling of letters--let's dive right in!!

Dear "Uncle" Mark,

I picked up your last issue, (#11) and enjoyed the story, but I wanted to pick at you a little bit. In the story, Dennis takes Walter to a cavern full of mushrooms that somehow has a psychoactive effect on Walter's thinking processes. It is indicated that these are psychedelic mushrooms, possibly psyllocybin.

Perhaps I'm an alarmist,but it seems to me that you are advocating drug use here. **Serious** drug use, from the look of it. I mean, psyllocybin mushrooms are not what I would want little kids running around trying for themselves. This may have seemed to you to be a humorous idea, but it comes off as being a potentially dangerous influence.

Please rethink your position on this subject, as I really don't think you intended to deliver a harmful messege to your readers.

Sincerely,

James Carlson

No, I certainly did not intend to cause any harm with my little experimental sequence--
I didn't put any warnings on the book, but I did arrange for the entire sequence to fall in the center four pages of the book and be printed on green paper.
My idea was, that anyone who found the sequence objectionable could simply tear out the offending pages, and the story was designed to continue without any discernable information missing. I assumed that any responsible parent would peruse any small-press, black and white, xerox comic before handing it over to their impressionable tot.
Did I assume too much? Are Mr and Mrs America too lax to censor their childrens' reading matter in this, the age of permissiveness? Am I to be held accountable for the moral fiber of our future leaders? I don't think so!!

Dear Mark,

I've been wondering for some time now, whether or not you were the same "M. Shaw" that does ads in the Austin Chronicle occasionally? I've seen this name in ads for Oat Willies and Room Service, and the style of art in the ads seems quite similar to yours. Well? Is it you? Are you out there moonlighting as a commercial artist? Please let me know, as I am extremely curious about this.

Sincerely,

Kim "Korny" Cornelius

Blush! Yes, I'm afraid I must confess to being the same "M. Shaw". But it was hardly a secret, as I published my flyer last issue, lacking anything else to fill a blank page. I've been free-lancing in Austin for some time now, almost four years. You didn't think I could survive on the profits of issues of Walter Kitty, did you? Ha Ha Haa!! HA HA HA HAAAAA!!!

To the Teller of Tail Tales,

As a tall tale teller in my own right I must say your stories are very well written. The other night, my sister, (11 yrs old) was digging in my comic collection. She passed by my copies of Action #1, Detective #27, Walt Disney's Comics and Stories #1 and hundreds of other unbagged books. Then

she came to my only double-mylar bagged copy of Walter Kitty #6. Her eyes lit up in eager anticipation. She went to the couch, stacked pillows behind her and got comfortable. For the next 25 minutes she was transported to the marvelous subterranian universe of Walter Kitty. When she came to, she wanted to know more about Walter. So, I filled her in, since my other issues are in a safety deposit box in this lovely world. Next, in true big-brother fashion, I told her about WalterWorld in Carlsbad Caverns, NM. I told her about the robotic interactive models of your characters, and the vicious Booger Bear ride. She could barely withstand the urge to go immediately. I continued to lead her on. About two months ago, you gave me a Walter Kitty promo-poster. I showed her this, and told her it was the advance-release movie poster. She began shaking. I told her about the cast of thousands, budget of billions, stop-motion animation, computer morphing effects, ILM enhancement, Danny Elfman score, and the Prince and Madonna music numbers. Then an hour later my father came in. Dannie, being so excited, told Dad everything. He told her I was pulling her leg. She went into a coma. Here's a drawing she did before her coma. The doctors say she won't come out of it till she sees the movie and visits WalterWorld, so please make my deception come true. HELP ME OBI-WALTER--YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE!!!

Signed,
a desperate brother,

Harry Knowles

P.S. Printing her drawing and the movie alone might wake her, so please send the Elfman score as soon as it is complete.

P.P.S. On second thought, take your time, she's only my sister.

Glad to oblige, Harry! Advance release date of Walter Kitty in the Hollow Earth is June 13, in the year 2011. What I want to know is, how did you find out about WalterWorld ®, in Carlsbad? Nobody's supposed to know about that. It doesn't even open until 1996! Someone's head will roll for this!! Gnash, snarl! Oh--! I almost forgot--here's Dannie's drawing...When she comes to, tell her I especially like the way she captured Dr. Foxx and Walter, particularly Dr. Foxx. On second thought, never mind-- I don't need the artistic competition.

Dear Mark,

Here I come on the run with a burger on a bun, and a dab of cole slaw on the side, your palate we will tickle with a cold dill pickle, and all of our potatoes are french fried, fried, fried. Our burgers can't be beat 'cuz we fry our own meat-- fry, fry, fry, fry, fry...

Kudos-- to whoever knows what the above song comes from, and how it ends. This is extremely esoteric trivia--print this and watch the fur fly!!

Trivia-ly,

Barney Rubble

Sob! It's been one of those weeks...now we're becoming the "Bedrock Times". Sob. Choke!

(LETTERS continue on next page)

Dear "Uncle" Mark,

All right man, tell me. So how does Dennis eat or talk? No oriface is visible to me resembling a mouth. Is his (ahem) somewhere unusual? Does he make his food into a paste and smear it all over his face, and it slowly is absorbed and digested transdermally? Please clear this up, as it keeps me from sleeping at night.

Curiously,

K. C. Franks

Jeez, like it matters! Hey, people, get a life! This is just a stupid comic book, for cryin' out loud!
Actually, though, I guess Dennis doesn't need to eat--since he's a mutated immortal being, he probably absorbs sustenance the same way he absorbs information--and since he has such advanced mental powers, he has the ability to converse telepathically, so he doesn't really speak--it just seems he does! Satisfied?

Dear "Uncle" Mark,

I noticed that you broke tradition last issue (#11), in the titles of your chapters. Up until then, you had named all your chapters after games, such as, "Hide and Seek", and "Follow the Leader". Last ish, you named the installment "Only A Lad", referring, I assume, to Zanomanon's asessment of himself in his rememberances. Isn't that also the title of a popular song by Oingo Boingo? Just what are you trying to accomplish by slipping in all these references to Danny Elfman and his band? Honestly, Elfman doesn't **need** your publicity--he has to be a millionaire several times over after all the films he's scored. Your comic can stand on its own as well--you needn't cheapen it by making all these "homages" to Elfman. Please don't let these references creep into the story itself, as the self-consciousness of it ruins the world you've created. Wouldn't just as good a title for last ish have been "Monopoly", or "Clue", or even "Truth or Dare"? Go back to doing your own thing, and keep your integrity. The game titles are better, and besides, now you've wrecked your consistency.

Sincerely,

Steve Donner
Austin, Texas

Well Steve, if you go all the way back to part one of "The Hollow Earth", you'll find that that very first chapter was titled "Just Another Day", which just coincidentally is the title of a song by (You guessed it!) Oingo Boingo! The game titles were begun at the start of part two, with "Foxx and Hound", signifying not only the two catalysts of the journey, but that a deception, i.e., a game, was being used to get them to go on the trip. The game titles just came naturally after that, up until last ish, when another "Boingo" song title seemed appropriate.
This ish breaks that tradition completely, though, with the title "Mistakes Were Made"--which is <u>not</u> a song title, but refers instead to those immortal words that seem to absolve certain political deeds of wrongdoing.
I guess my consistency is <u>really</u> wrecked now!

Well, that's all the room we have for now, folks.

Be here next ish for some really dark doings and some feline heroics--as death comes for one of our major characters!!

And in the meantime, WRITE US! Our address is :

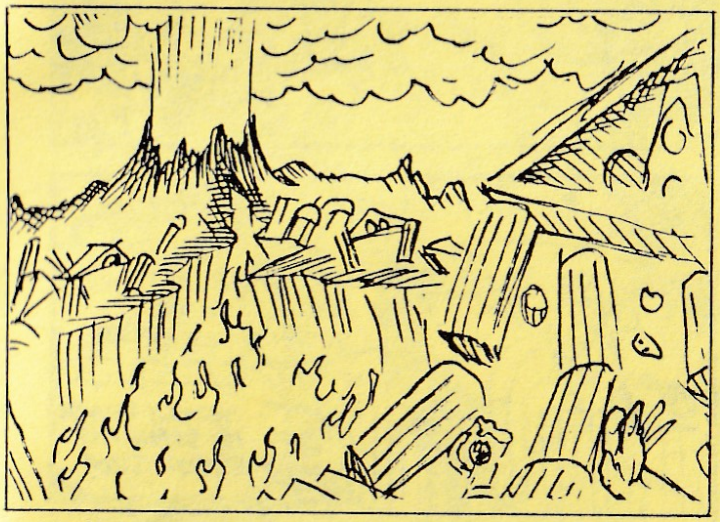
AWK PROJECTS
2701 Penny Lane #219
Austin, Texas 78758

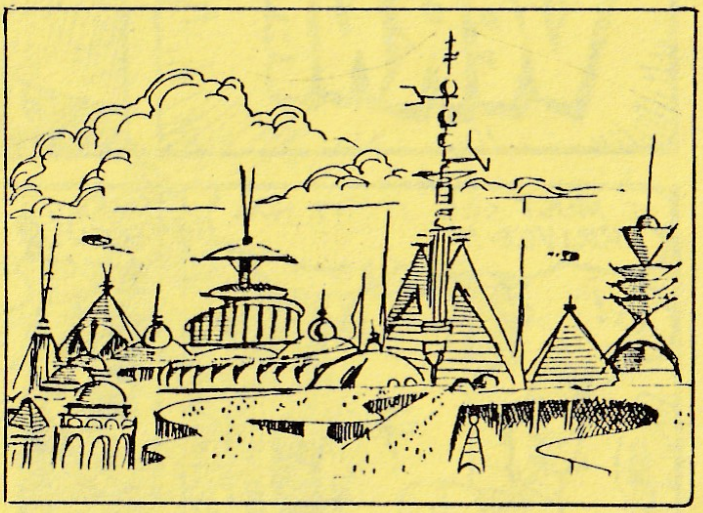
THE "REAL" ATLANTIS

by LAURA D. SHAW

For many years, people scoffed at the belief in a "real" Atlantis. But in 1968, the laughter abruptly stopped. A commercial airline pilot flying over the Bahamas glanced into the clear waters to see the distinct outline of an ancient temple. Taking pictures of what he saw to prove his story, it wasn't long before investigators swarmed to study what turned out to be not a temple, but a huge stone wall. The wall was made of stone bricks fitted closely together and ran for miles under the ocean.

Oddly enough, the wall appeared exactly where the American psychic Edgar Cayce had, between the years 1923 to 1944, predicted ancient Atlantis would rise from the depths of the ocean. Another American, writer Taylor Caldwell, wrote a book called The Romance of Atlantis which chronicled in detail the many dreams she'd had since childhood of her previous life in Atlantis. Over 2,000 years ago, the famous philosopher Plato recorded the story of a traveller who had heard the history of Atlantis from ancient Egyptian priests. They depicted





Atlantis as a land of proud and powerful people whose cruelty and greed brought about their downfall. In trying to dominate the world, Atlanteans misused the awesome powers of their crystals and unleashed the volcanic fury of earth. Overcome by tidal waves and cataclysms, the continent broke into pieces and finally sank.

However, there were many refugees from Atlantis who carried their culture and their memories of the once-proud land to all corners of the world: Egypt, Mexico, Easter Island, Great Britain, Portugal, Peru, and parts of South America and Africa all boast remnants of this lost civilization. Many similarities in languages and customs trace the path taken by an advanced people migrating outward, escaping the disaster that was recorded in world culture as the great flood.

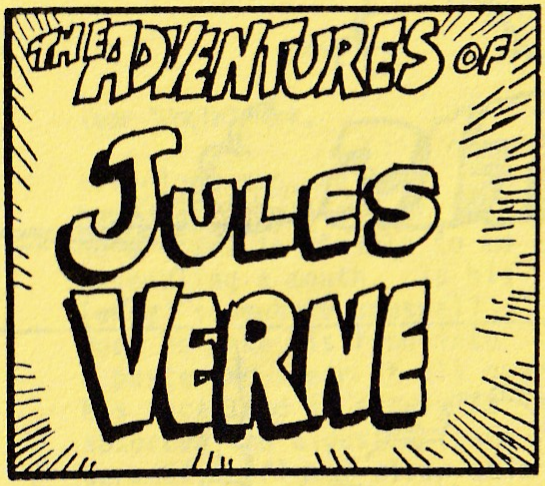
If you're interested in learning more about Atlantis, here are some good books to read:

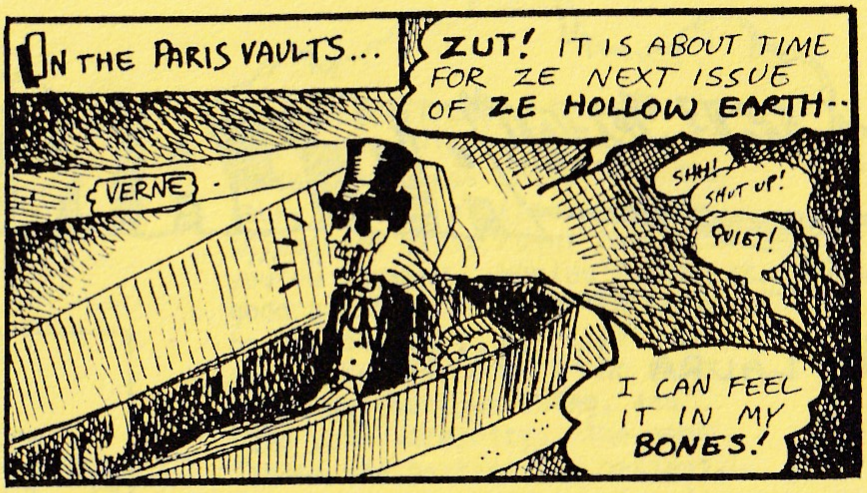
Atlantis: The Antediluvian World by Ignatius Donnelly, Gramercy Publishing Company, 1949;

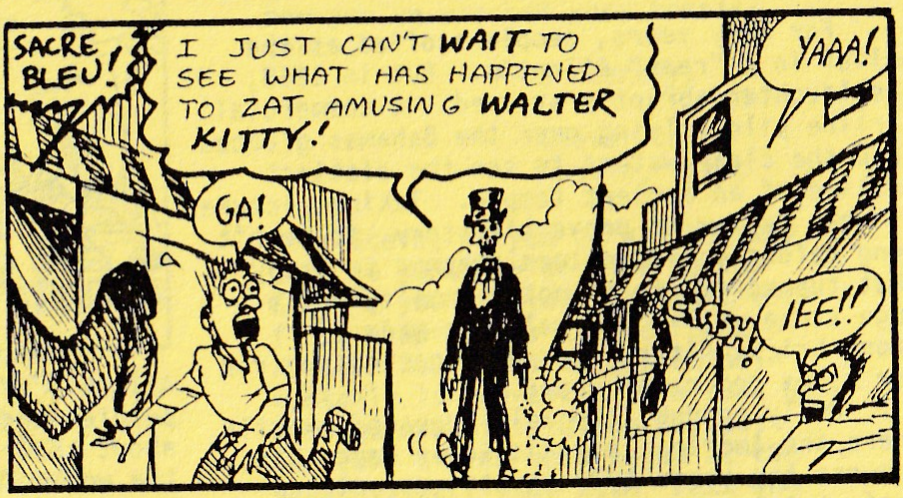
Atlantis: The Missing Continent by David McMullen, Bantree Children's Book, 1977;

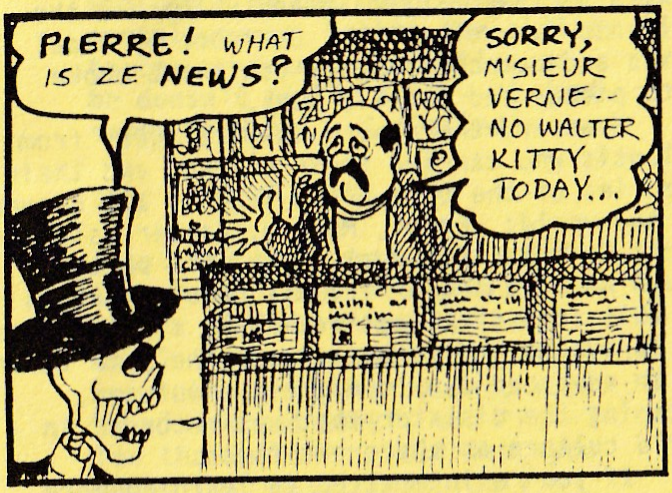
Lost Atlantis by James Bramwell, Freeway Press Incorporated, 1973; and

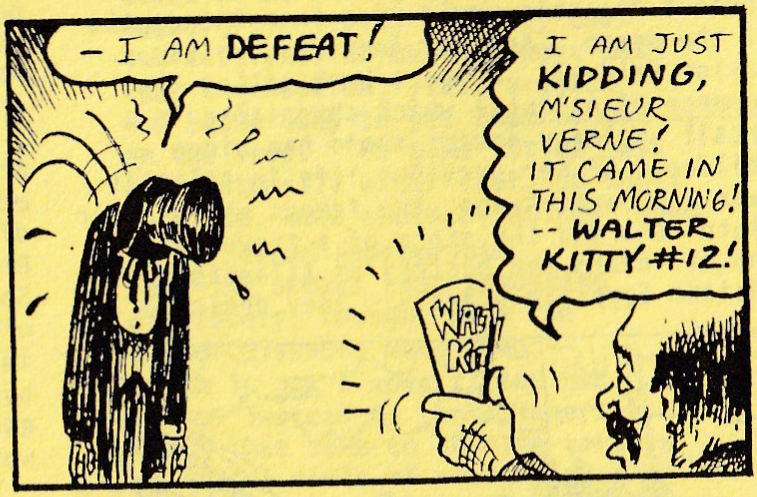
Edgar Cayce on Atlantis by Edgar Evans Cayce, Paperback Library, 1968.

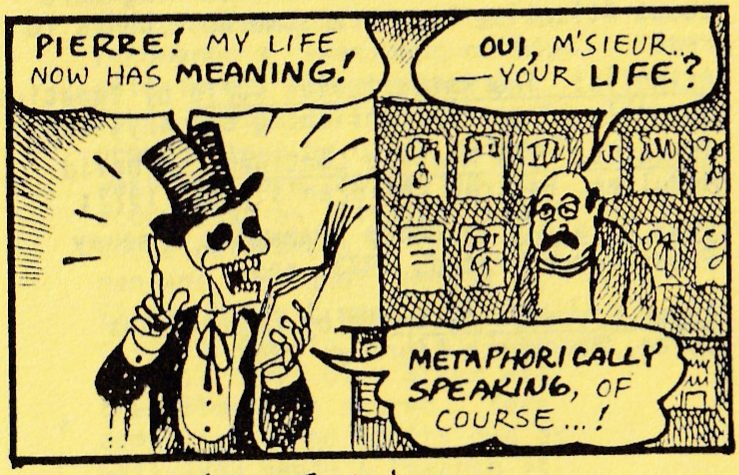


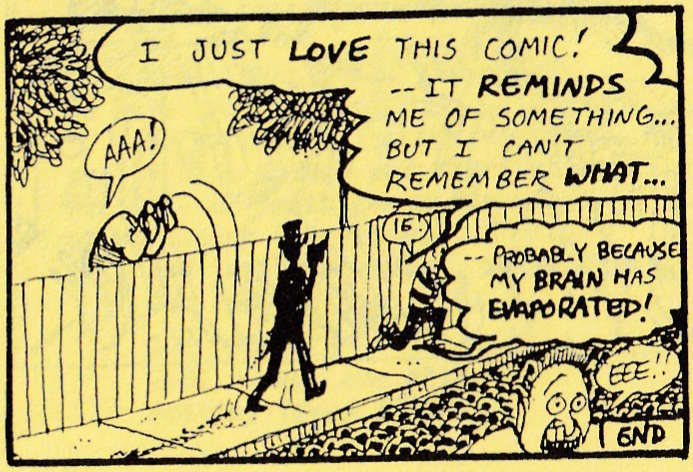












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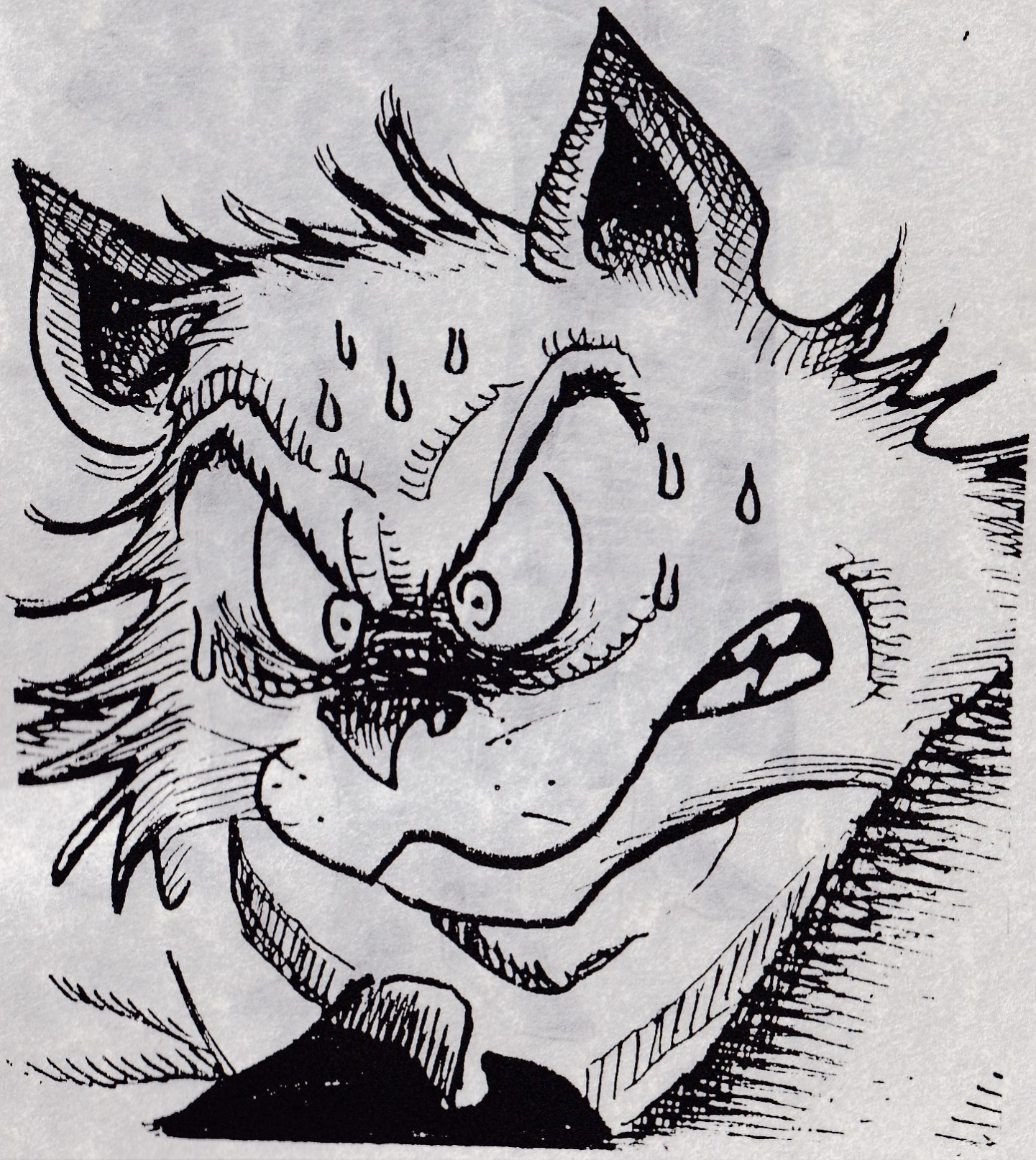
NEXT ISSUE: **WALTER KITTY** in the **HOLLOW EARTH** continues, as **WALTER** once again confronts **ZANOMANON** as he attempts to rescue **CATHERINE!**
EXCITEMENT! ADVENTURE! And an unexpected **TRAGEDY,** as **DEATH** befalls one of our characters!

Don't miss **WALTER KITTY # 13--**
On sale soon!!



M.SHAW 92.